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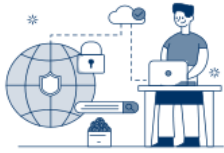
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EXPLOSION, FIRE UNDER INVESTIGATION



The Prescott, Hastings and Cottage Grove Fire Departments and law enforcement agencies responded to a fire at a residence located in woods off of St. Croix Trail, just north of Hwy. 10 in Denmark Township shortly after 9:30 a.m. Tuesday morning. Neighbors reported an explosion before the structure was engulfed in flames. Law enforcement had the area sealed off for several hours. As of press time, no cause of the reported explosion or fire were released. Photo by Joseph Back



River Falls Fire Department welcomed nine new members to its ranks Monday, July 15 with a ceremony at Glen Park. Photo courtesy of River Falls Fire

River Falls Fire welcomes 9 new members

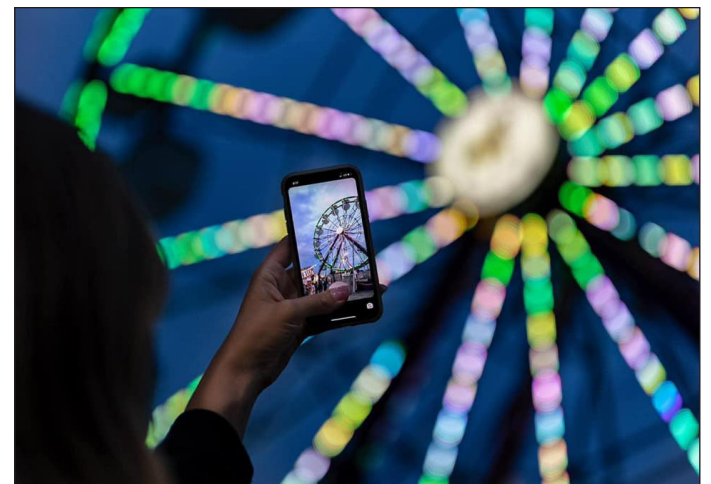
RIVER FALLS – On Monday, July 15, the River Falls Fire Department welcomed nine new firefighters to its roster during a badging ceremony in the Glen Park Pavilion. The ceremony, led by Fire Chief Steven Cash and Battalion Chief Dustin Dodge, was held to recognize the completion of firefighters' probationary period.

During this time, probationary members are expected to complete state-certified classes for Fire I, Fire II, and HazMat Operations, in addition to countless hours of departmental training. At the conclusion of the ceremony, each firefighter was given their badge and collar brass by loved ones or friends of their choosing.

Prior to the ceremony, members were interviewed to share a little bit about themselves:

Harm Bents has always had a passion for helping others. Not only does he serve as a firefighter, but he recently joined Allina Health in River Falls as an EMT. These

See RFFD, Page 12



The "gentle giant" the Ferris Wheel is a fan favorite provided by Mr. Ed's Magical Midway at the Pierce County Fair. Contributed photo

The magic behind Mr. Ed's Magical Midway

Carnival company is 20-year staple of PCF

By Sarah Nigbor

The magic of the Midway at the county fair is a memory that lasts a lifetime. The lights, the screams as thrill seekers try new rides, the smell of pronto pups and funnel cakes, the heat of a sum-

mer night. While exhibits are a major part of the fair, the carnival is another important piece.

Mr. Ed's Magical Midway is owned by North Freedom family Lisa Weiland and her

See MIDWAY, Page 10

Group of 60 travel to Italy and Greece

Staff report

Prescott High School student Ashley Keller called the trip "incredible." Junior Andrew Lesso used "unforgettable" and senior Ken Ryan called it "spectacular." Those were the prevailing thoughts of the 49 Prescott students and 11 adults who returned last week from an 11-day trip to Rome, Greece and Turkey.

The trip was sponsored and organized by Education First, an international student travel company that creates educational and cultural experiences for people



See TRIP, Page 19 A group of Prescott travelers in front of Pompeii with Mount Vesuvius in the background. Contributed photo

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AROUND the county

Momentum West, Dunn County and Pierce County EDC launch Single Family Housing Toolkit

RIVER FALLS – Pierce County residents and home-builders can now use a unique “housing toolkit” designed to make it easier to buy and build homes in the county.

Through a joint effort of Pierce County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC), Momentum West and Dunn County, a four-part housing toolkit is now available on the PCEDC www.pcedc.com and Momentum West www.momentumwest.org websites. This toolkit has a section for aspiring homeowners, resources for communities, tools for developers and links to housing studies conducted in the region.

The Aspiring Homeowner section has financing basics, credit, and links to local resources. The financing basics for the aspiring homeowner covers topics such as “What’s Your Credit Score, How Much Can I Borrow?, Debt to Income Ratio, Home Mortgage Types and Realtor Tips.” The local resources toolkit provides links to local lenders, and county resources such as local building codes, zoning maps contacts, local builders/realtors and sample home plans.

The Community section provides brief list of resources, key partners, programs, and policy alternatives that may be considered by the residents, communities, developers, and other partner organizations of the Momentum West Region to address housing needs and meet local housing-related goals. It is intended to foster local creativity and partnership opportunities in addressing local housing needs.

The Developer section is designed to assist developers in intensifying development opportunities and tools for financing the development of infrastructure.

Housing studies conducted in the region are included as the fourth component to assist communities, community members, government officials, and developers in understanding the needs, challenges, and opportunities in the local housing market.

“It is difficult for aspiring homeowners, developers, and communities to know the full array of tools and resources available to them that will enable them to meet their homeowner and housing goals and aspirations. This tool kit is designed to be one step in realizing

those housing dreams,” said PCEDC Executive Director Joe Folsom.

This initiative grew out of feedback from a 2023 Dunn County housing workgroup.

“People who wanted to buy property or wanted to build a home were running into hurdles with permits and understanding that process,” said Anne Wodarczyk, Dunn County Zoning Administrator. “The toolkit is intended to help buyers and developers have a better understanding of everything that goes into housing development.”

“We took a look at, how do we simplify this?” said Steve Jahn, Momentum West Executive Director, and a housing workgroup member. “We mapped out information that a developer and information that a private party would need if they wanted to create a development or build a house in Dunn or Pierce County. Currently only the Pierce and Dunn County toolkits are populated with the localized sections for the remaining eight counties in the Momentum West region in process,” he added.

Submitted by Pierce County EDC

SVHS Class of 1949 75th reunion is Aug. 2

Members of the Spring Valley High School Class of 1949 will gather for their 75th reunion on Friday, Aug. 2 at the Phoenix restaurant in Baldwin.

“We believe we are the first SVHS class to hold a 75th reunion,” said John Reque, who with Carol Karnes Bevell is serving on the reunion committee.

Of the 57 class members who graduated in 1949, nine

are still living, three men and six women. The committee expects an attendance of between four and seven classmates.

“It’s just lunch,” said Reque, who explained the event coincides with annual SVHS at the Phoenix on the first Friday of August. “We’ve had 13 reunion gatherings – every five years since our 10th reunion in 1959 and we’d like to keep them go-

ing.” The largest SVHS class 1949 reunion was the 50th, held in 1999, when 32 grads met for a weekend that included a banquet at the Coachmen Supper Club, tours of the old and new high schools and a St. Croix River brunch cruise.

Submitted by John Reque of Evanston, Ill.

Staying Put plans busy August

Staying Put, Inc. (S312 McKay Ave. PO Box 193, Spring Valley) offers an array of non-medical volunteer services to help seniors and adults with disabilities maintain their independence in Spring Valley and Elmwood. They also offer people the chance to volunteer in the rural tradition of “neighbors helping neighbors.” These services are offered at no charge, but donations are graciously accepted.

Staying Put has new office hours: Closed Mondays except for special events; 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Call 715-778-5800 for a complete listing of services.

Transportation: Staying Put provides local and non-local transportation (with mileage reimbursement) for groceries, banking, pharmacy, hair and medical appointments. Call 715-778-5800. Drivers needed! Mileage reimbursements available.

Meals on Wheels/Spring Valley and Elmwood: For info on home-delivered meals, call ADRC of Pierce County at 715-273-6780/toll free 877-273-0804. Can you deliver meals? Call 715-778-5800. **Elmwood drivers needed now!**

Coffee Klatch: 10-11 a.m. Tuesday through Friday at the Staying Put office (occasional cancellation). Enjoy a visit over fresh coffee or tea, donated treats. All clients and volunteers are welcome to drop in!

Memory Café: Every second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. This is a social get-together for older adults held 10-11:30 a.m. Aug. 13 and Aug. 27 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, S520 Church Ave., SV. Come share your mem-

ories with a friend or companion. Have fun and share stories, enjoy coffee, tea and treats, all are welcome. For info or a ride, call Staying Put at 715-778-5800.

Strong Bodies fitness sessions: Co-sponsored by Pierce County ADRC. Classes are held 9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays at the SV Village Hall. Call to register at 715-778-5800.

Foot care clinic: Licensed nurse Rochelle Boos will trim toenails and reduce calluses and corns from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 6 and Aug. 22 at the Staying Put Office. Call for an appointment and cost information: 715-778-5800.

Coffee & Conversation: 1:30 p.m. Aug. 1 at Elmwood History Center (110 S. Main St.)

Bingo, 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7 at the Staying Put Office.

Monday Meal, 11 a.m., Staying Put Office. Social get together for the community; food provided.

Craft Day, 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14 at the Staying Put Office.

Movie Night, 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16 at Sheryl Sutherland’s house (N8036 County Road BB, Spring Valley). We will show either “It’s a Mad Mad Mad World,” “Honey I Shrunk the Kids,” or “Driving Miss Daisy.” Popcorn and beverages will be served.

Game Day, 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28 at the Spring Valley Community Center. Games and socializing. Call 715-778-5800 to register.

Monthly Birthday Party, 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, Staying Put Office. Volunteers and clients with July birthdays, stop in for treats, games

and prizes!

Tales of Quails, 10:30 a.m. to noon Monday, Aug. 26 at the Staying Put office. Gina Klatt (accompanied by Roach the quail) will give a talk about her adventures raising quails. Guests will get a chance to sample cooked quail eggs.

Animal Companionship: ATD certified therapy dog Abby will come visit. Call 715-778-5800 to request a visit.

Care Baskets: Assembled and donated by a Staying Put volunteer, delivered to members experiencing loss, illness, loneliness. Please call the office if you have a tip: 715-778-5800.

Tech Workshop: For personal help on your electronic device from a youth volunteer, call 715-778-5800.

Music at SV Health Care Campus: The public is invited to live music from 12:45-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21 at Spring Valley Health & Rehab (S830 Westland Drive, Spring Valley).

Volunteer Meet Up: Join the Staying Put staff and fellow volunteers for supper and socializing 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 at The Wandering Ewe (S119 McKay Ave. S.)

AARP Home Fit Training: A new pilot program to make easy home modifications for seniors. Interested volunteers should attend this training session at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29 to learn to recognize home safety issues and implement simple solutions that make seniors’ homes more aging-friendly. RSVP to Staying Put; food will be provided.

Submitted by Seniors Staying Put Inc.



Join the fun at Yellowstone Trail Heritage Day on Saturday, Aug. 10 featuring three car shows. The 2023 Vintage and Classic Car Show 1st place winner was a 1931 Model A Ford owned by George Bell, pictured with his son. Contributed photo

Yellowstone Trail Heritage Day on Aug. 10

On Saturday, Aug. 10 the annual Yellowstone Trail Heritage Day will celebrate the historic Yellowstone Trail in Hudson and across St. Croix County. Auto enthusiasts and history lovers are in for a treat with three different car shows and history displays.

Come see the autos at Lakefront Park and on Walnut Street, from 10 a.m. to noon, featuring the vintage and classic car show, the Britfest car show coordinated by the Minnesota MG Group and an antique auto show with the Twin Cities Model A Ford Club.

Owners of vintage and classic vehicles of all makes and models are invited to join the auto displays. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The car shows are free to participate and attend. For questions or to learn more, please contact Linda White at 715-386-8332.

Get out and explore the Trail with the Yellowstone Trail Poker Run and Sociability Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit Poker Run Stops along the Trail in Hudson, Roberts, Hammond, Baldwin and Woodville to earn playing cards for a chance to win a \$100 cash prize at the Poker Run Prize Party at Sidetrack Saloon & Grill in Roberts. Check-in is from 3-3:30 p.m.

While you are on the Poker Run and Sociability Drive, don’t miss the history displays throughout the county with displays at the Hudson Area Public Library from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Hazel Mackin Community Library in Roberts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Hammond Community Library from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Baldwin Public Library from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Woodville Community Library and the Woodville Historical Society from 9

a.m. to 1 p.m.

This annual event celebrates the historic Yellowstone Trail which was the first coast-to-coast automobile route across the Northern United States. Hudson was the first stop on the Trail when entering Wisconsin from the west, passing over the toll bridge, across the Old Dike Road and climbing up Walnut and Vine Streets to County Road UU and Hwy 12, leading east to the St. Croix County towns of Roberts, Hammond, Baldwin, Woodville and beyond.

Learn more and view event details on the St. Croix County Yellowstone Trail Facebook page or on the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce website at HudsonWI.org.

Submitted by St. Croix County Yellowstone Trail

‘American Pickers’ to film in Wisconsin

The American Pickers are excited to return to Wisconsin! They plan to film episodes of The History Channel hit television series throughout this area in September 2024.

American Pickers is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique “picking” on The History Channel. The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America’s most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find historically significant or rare items, in addition to unforgettable characters and their collections.

As they hit the back

roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, they want to meet characters with amazing stories and fun items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America’s past along the way. The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they’ve never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

The *American Pickers* TV show is looking for

leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a unique item, story to tell, and is ready to sell... we would love to hear from you! Please note, the Pickers DO NOT pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public.

If interested, please send us your name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cinetflix.com or call 646-493-2184.

Submitted by American Pickers



Thank you so much for all of your love and support during this difficult time in our loss of Brian.

We send our most sincere thanks for your kind expressions of sympathy.

We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and your kindness will always be remembered.

Thank you to all of those who brought a meal, sent flowers or a plant, came to visit, and shared a story about Brian. We are forever grateful for your kindness and generosity. We miss Brian so much and he will be in our hearts forever. Brian touched so many lives and may Brian’s spirit now touch you.

God Bless. Love,

The Family Of
Brian Webster

Kim, Jennifer, Mitchell and Taylor and Baby-To-Be Webster
Thomas and Kylie

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DAD AND HUSBAND



**Brian
Webster**

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE DAY GOD TOOK YOU HOME
AUGUST 3, 2023

The happiness, joy and love that were shared by you, we think of all the laughter, the smiles and all of the fun.

It reminds us how without you, life has never been the same.

Though you may be gone, your spirit lives on in our hearts.

Forever loved, forever remembered, forever missed, forever cherished in our hearts.

Thank you for all of the beautiful memories.

Thank you for being such a loving, caring, and wonderful Dad and Husband.

Hugs and kisses. You are in our hearts forever.

We love you forever. God Bless. Love,

Your Family,

Kim, Jennifer, Mitchell and Taylor and Baby-To-Be Webster, Thomas and Kylie

VIEWPOINTS

Democrats move quickly to back Harris



Days after Wisconsin Republicans united at their convention in Milwaukee behind Donald Trump, Wisconsin Democrats quickly rallied behind Vice President Kamala Harris after President Joe Biden dropped out and endorsed her.

Top state elected Democrats quickly endorsed her. And state Party Chair Ben Wikler reported on July 22 -- the day before Harris' visit to West Allis -- that all but a handful of delegates to the mid-August Democratic National Convention in Chicago had pledged to support Harris.

A jubilant crowd roared for Harris' jabs at Trump and her declarations that "we are not going back." She said America under a new Trump administration will descend into "chaos, fear and hate." She said her campaign is about the future and freedom. "Are we ready to fight for it? When we fight, we win," Harris said.

Democrats noted the enthusiastic surge.

"There is a surge of focus, of enthusiasm, of a kind of flowering, of the kind of unity that we're going to need to defeat Donald Trump and that we are absolutely going to have," Wikler said. "Like so many Democrats, I have profound gratitude for President Biden's service to our country and his leadership. I honor a decision that must have been

unimaginably challenging to reach."

State GOP spokesperson Matt Fisher in a statement said while Democrats may have a new candidate, they're still offering "failed policies."

"With their support for Kamala Harris, Wisconsin Democrats are admitting they have nothing to offer voters other than a different name with the same failed policies," Fisher said. "Wisconsinites see through the charade and are ready to turn the page on the dysfunction of the Biden-Harris Administration."

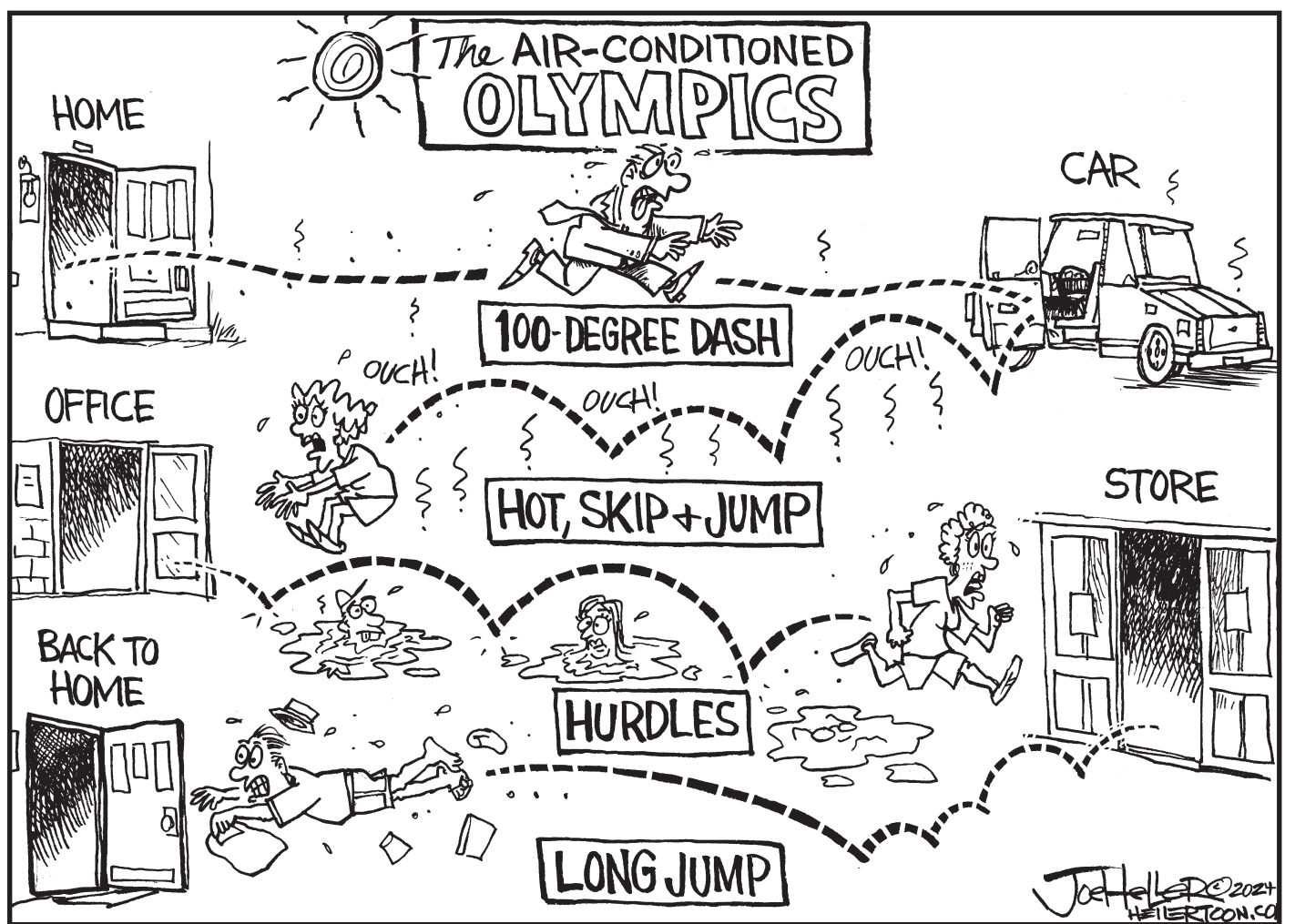
Wikler said Harris, who is 59, can make Trump's age and readiness to serve a liability in the race. The former president turned 78 years old in June.

"This is a reset in the presidential election, and we have the upper hand," Wikler said.

Gov. Tony Evers in a statement called Harris "a tenacious leader who has vigorously defended our democracy, fought to protect the freedoms we hold dear, and worked tirelessly to do the right thing and deliver for us."

Evers earlier thanked Biden for his service.

"President Biden is a leader who's always chosen unity over division, people over politics, selflessness over selfishness, and decency and respect over cruelty and retribution, and that's as evident today as it has been throughout each day of his decades of public service," Evers said. "I've been proud and honored to support him, and I'm incredibly grateful for all the work we've been able to do together. Thank you, Mr. President."



Speaking at a July 22 press conference at Milwaukee Area Technical College celebrating the state's designation as a U.S. Regional Tech Hub, Evers grew emotional while discussing Biden's decision.

"He is a good friend," he said. "He's done a lot for this country."

Baldwin, D-Madison, has avoided saying in recent weeks whether she believed Biden should continue his campaign after a much-criticized June 27 debate performance. She several times said she had relayed concerns she heard from constituents to Biden's campaign and the White House, but she de-

clined to join the calls for him to step aside ahead of Sunday's announcement.

Following Biden's announcement, Baldwin said it had been an honor to work with him on issues such as health care and infrastructure. She then quickly endorsed Harris.

"I look forward to her candidacy as a new beginning for our party and our country and I am excited to work with her to lower costs for Wisconsin families, grow our Made in America economy, and restore our fundamental rights and freedoms," Baldwin said.

At the MATC press conference, Baldwin touted Biden's

"lifetime of commitment to his country," and said he "continued in his role as patriot" by dropping out of the race. She also said he didn't wait too long to drop out, in response to a reporter's question.

"He said early on in his first administration that he wanted to be a bridge to the next generation," she said. "He's making that so. And there's a new beginning, and I'm very excited."

GOP U.S. Senate candidate Eric Hovde said Baldwin did nothing while other Dems called on Biden to step aside.

"She stayed on the sidelines, dodging reporters and

refusing to stand up for Wisconsinites," Hovde said. "She's been friends with President Biden for decades and never once told us about his obvious problems. We need to know right now -- how long has Tammy Baldwin been part of the Biden cover-up?"

The Capitol Report is written by editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

LETTERS to the Editor

Drill baby drill

To the editor,
In April former President Trump invited America's oil executives to his Florida home exclaiming "Drill, Baby, Drill," and pressing them to donate a billion dollars to his campaign fund. For their billion dollars he would lease more drilling sites for them, reduce regulations, and make their lives easier.

All these executives make multi-million-dollar salaries and benefits. They are powerful and important people who were flattered by Trump wining and dining them. Unfortunately for Trump's plan, these moguls of the oil and gas industries have no appetite to increase production. Even as America is at peak production, production is meeting demand and prices for the oil companies are very profitable. The companies are embracing financial discipline and don't want prices to fall. Trump is naive enough to think they will do his bidding when it is not in their interests.

On Thursday night Trump promised his followers that he would reduce oil prices with the chant "Drill, Baby, Drill." Unfortunately, the only way oil, gas and electricity will get cheaper is by reducing demand using electronic vehicles, heat pumps, and solar and wind generation of electricity. We can bring inflation down with green policies.

*Louis Drecktrah
River Falls*

Vote NO on Aug. 13!

To the editor,
When our heat went out years ago during a cold winter it was really important to get help immediately. I'm sure everyone, like us, appreciates a timely response in emergencies.

No matter who we are or what we believe, in an emergency most of us want resources and funding to quickly arrive. But Wisconsin Republicans are trying to block the governor's powers to accept and distribute federal funding in emergencies through two constitutional amendments they put on the Aug. 13 ballot.

They're trying to trick us with confusing language and take advantage of a low turnout election to get rid of the governor's authority to quickly help us with federal funding in emergencies. They want to undermine our established and reliable system for getting federal funding to communities and people without long delays in times of urgency and critical need.

If Gov. Evers can't quickly send out emergency federal funding after a flood or tornado or other major disaster because the money caught up in legislative red tape our community resources will be completely overwhelmed

because our individual communities don't have enough money on hand to cover all the immediate costs of dealing with major disasters on their own.

While Wisconsin Republicans play games, grab power and refuse to do their job, we all -- our friends, neighbors and community members -- must ensure that necessary federal funding will be quickly available to those of us who need it in the unfortunate event of an emergency.

Let's VOTE NO with our friends, neighbors and community members on the two constitutional amendments on the Aug. 13 ballot! Remember to check the back of your ballot for the two constitutional amendments that will appear as referendum questions. Vote No for Our Freedoms! Our Families! Our Futures!

*Jim Camery
River Falls*

Common sense PBM reform

To the editor,
Are you concerned about the cost of your prescriptions? Are you concerned about being able to fill your medications at the pharmacy of your choice? Have you had to fill your prescription at another pharmacy because your preferred pharmacy is not contracted with your insurance? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, allow us to explain

why there is a clear and immediate threat to many retail pharmacies across our country, especially those that are locally owned.

Pharmacy Benefit Managers, or PBMs, are companies that manage prescription drug benefits on behalf of health insurers, Medicare Part D drug plans, large employers, and other payers. They act as negotiating entities between drug companies, insurers, and pharmacies, and they are usually the ones responsible for paying the drug costs to your pharmacy on behalf of your insurance. PBMs are often owned by or affiliated with your insurance company; some examples are Express Scripts, CVS Caremark, and OptumRx (these three own nearly 80% of the market share). And, often, they are paying your locally owned pharmacy WAY below the cost for them to purchase and dispense your medication (sometimes hundreds of dollars below the pharmacy's cost to purchase a single medication, and sometimes tens of thousands of dollars below cost for prescription claims in a single month!) Their contracts are typically "take it or leave it" for your local pharmacy and often offer low or below-cost reimbursement rates as their only option.

Numerous articles have been published in the past several weeks criticizing the role of PBMs and their role in inflating drug costs to consumers while simultaneously decreasing payments to retail pharmacies, including the New York Times,

Wall Street Journal, and the Federal Trade Commission. These articles have pulled back the veil of how PBMs have been limiting your pharmacy choice, driving up drug costs, and putting independently owned pharmacies out of business at an alarming rate. (In Pennsylvania, over 140 pharmacies have already closed in the first half of 2024!) PBMs are KILLING locally owned pharmacies across the country.

The FTC report left no doubt that these PBMs are creating unfair advantages for themselves that are driving up costs for consumers, limiting consumer choices, and killing access to quality pharmacy care. They pay their own mail order pharmacies more, keep billions of dollars of "middleman" money for themselves rather than passing that saving money to you or your employer, sometimes make you purchase the more expensive brand name medication (so they can receive more rebate money from the drug maker), steer patients toward their own affiliated or mail-order pharmacies, pay independent pharmacies less amounts than their affiliated pharmacies, and have collected huge amounts of unfair "fees" from pharmacies over the past several years. They have made the retail pharmacy playing field unlevel, and as more independent pharmacies close, the quality of local healthcare will decrease dramatically, forcing many people to potentially drive long distances for prescriptions (if their local or preferred pharmacy is no longer in business), pay higher drug costs, and have longer wait times to access their medicine.

"What can I do?" you may ask. There are at least a couple ways to support the cause. One is to urge your employers to examine pharmacy benefits when plan renewals come due to see if the insurance company they work with uses a PBM that is cited in these articles mentioned above (the "big 3" PBMs, in particular). The second way is to urge your state and federal legislators to support these two bills that have bipartisan support:

S. 2973, the *Modernizing and Ensuring PBM Accountability (MEPA) Act* (passed

26-1 out of the Senate Finance Committee/H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (passed the House of Representatives on an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 320-71)

Bans spread pricing in Medicaid managed care by requiring a fair and transparent reimbursement to pharmacies and saves over \$1 billion!

S. 3430, Better Mental Health Care, Lower-Cost Drugs, and Extenders Act (unanimously passed the Senate Finance Committee)

Includes the No PBMs Act which requires CMS to define reasonable and relevant contract terms in Medicare.

Here is an easy link to contact your legislators: <https://www.fight4rx.org/action-center.html>

If you are concerned about prescription drug costs, small business pharmacies, and your local pharmacy access, please reach out to your legislators for this common sense PBM reform that will help your local pharmacy receive fair reimbursement and keep their doors open. Many pharmacies will continue to close or not accept certain insurances in 2024 and beyond if this continues. Congress must not miss this opportunity to act!

Sincerely,
Dave Willink, Pharmacist/Owner, Village Pharmacy of Baldwin, Ellsworth, and Glenwood City

Matt & Julie Johnson, Pharmacists/Owners, Chet Johnson Drug of Amery
Matt Huepfel, Pharmacist/Owner, Spring Valley Drug

Support Rebecca Cooke

To the editor,
I am writing in support of Rebecca Cooke who is running for Assembly, 3rd District. She grew up on a sixth-generation Eau Claire dairy farm. She is a small business owner, and even as the campaign heats up, waitresses three nights a week.

Cooke says the rural district needs a different representative in order to get a farm bill passed. Far from

the JOURNAL
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Support Rebecca Cooke

To the editor,
I am writing in support of Rebecca Cooke who is running for Assembly, 3rd District. She grew up on a sixth-generation Eau Claire dairy farm. She is a small business owner, and even as the campaign heats up, waitresses three nights a week.

Cooke says the rural district needs a different representative in order to get a farm bill passed. Far from

See LETTERS, Page 5



FROM THE *Editor's Desk*

BY SARAH NIGBOR

A better spectator than athlete

I have never been accused of being even remotely athletic, so I am in absolute awe of any athlete who excels at their sport(s). God did not see fit to bless me with coordination, speed or grace; my talents lie elsewhere. I'm no Molly Janke.

I regret not trying any sports during my school career, but to be honest, I was just too darn shy and worried I would make a fool of myself. I also never liked the spotlight and spent my time trying to blend into the woodwork instead of being noticed. As a young adult, I excelled at trap shooting, but that wasn't an option when I was in school. My glory came from beating my male college housemates while shooting at a quarry outside of town. Nothing is quite as satisfying as taking down a cocky competitor.

But just because I'm not athletic doesn't mean I don't enjoy watching sports. I love watching and cheering for Milwaukee Brewers baseball; Green Bay Packers, UW-River Falls Falcons and Wisconsin Badgers football and my kids in their sports (baseball, football, track, cross country, softball, volleyball, basketball). I also cheer for my husband, who coaches varsity football at a Middle Border Conference school. I scream until my voice is hoarse and have

been known to break out a cow bell or two.

I was also taught in no uncertain terms to despise any Minnesota team: Vikings, Twins, Wild, Gophers, all of them. To root for a "Mud-duck" team was considered a sin in our household. Sorry to the Minnesota fans and transplants who may be reading this right now.

I have fond memories of watching the Summer and Winter Olympics as a child with my grandparents and mom. I was absolutely obsessed with figure skaters Kristi Yamaguchi and Nancy Kerrigan. I'll never forget watching them win their medals. Yamaguchi gold in 1992 at Albertville and Kerrigan a silver in 1994 at Lillehammer (after being whacked in the knee by a Tonya Harding henchman). I even kept charts on tabboard of the medal count, complete with gold, silver and bronze star stickers. One of my most cherished childhood possessions was a Kristi Yamaguchi snowglobe from my grandma.

So watching the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris has me super excited. It's amazing to watch these athletes represent the United States, to work together and cheer each other on. I'm a sap, so of course I had tears in my eyes when the men's gymnastics team won

a bronze medal, their first medal in 16 years. Each performance kept getting better and better. What a comeback story for Brody Malone, who had terrible performances and fell in the pommel horse, floor and high bar in the qualifying round. But in the finals, when it counted, he put it all aside and performed beautifully, along with his teammates. Talk about pressure!

My sweet husband of course gave me a kind observation regarding my athletic abilities while I was marveling over the gymnastics and diving moves.

"You could have been an Olympic bobsledder, the way you can zip down a hill," he said with a smirk. He is referring to the time (detailed in a previous column) that I decided to sled down our steep hill, skidded down the ice-covered driveway, shot across the road, flew several feet up and through the air and landed in a cornfield on my tailbone, glasses and pride flying.

He should talk. I seem to remember someone flipping in the air off the Nugget Lake sledding hill. And another time when he was poking fun at me, God's mighty hand smote him and he slipped on a plastic bag on the kitchen tile, doing yet another flip onto his backside. What is that they say about karma?



WOODWORKING *Again*

BY DAVE WOOD

Grandma bids me fond farewell

After my mother died in 1945, my father remarried in 1947 and I was removed from my grandma's and grandpa's tender care in their big old house and resettled with my new family on the edge of town, where city untreated sewage was released into the Trempealeau River next to my new home which always seemed to be full of my new cousins, rowdy, fun loving kids who made lots of noise and cheated at Monopoly, a far cry from Grandpa's half block lawn and the silence in the seven bedroom house in consideration of the boarders Grandma took in after the Great Depression ruined the family's financial situation. Monopoly? Grandma preferred Solitaire, which we both played endlessly, while Grandpa looked on, puffing his pipe.

My pampered self was doing badly, trying to adjust to my new noisy life, so one fine spring day, I decided, at age 10, to run away from home! I figured I better go over to my former residence and tell Grandma, who worried so much about me and my health that she insisted I wear long-john wool underwear until May lest I catch cold.

Grandma was taking down crisp white boarders' bedsheets from the long clotheslines that stretched across the side yard when I broke the news: "Gramma, I've decided to run away from home."

She took a wooden clothespin out of her mouth and replied, "Davey! Running away? Why ever for?"

"Because I don't care for living by the sewer and my new relatives who cheat at

Monopoly—They put two hotels on one property and charge double when I"

"Land on them?" replied the durable old lady. "That's pretty bad, and I can see your point. And you're running away. So be it, but we'll all miss you. Where do you plan to run to?"

"Just AWAY," I replied emphatically.

"Well, it's late and you better get going soon, wherever it is, but hold on. . ."

She went into the house and soon returned with two sandwiches wrapped in waxed paper. Her specialty was pink baloney, minced onion and hard-boiled egg (to "stretch" it) and mayo, all pulverized to mush in her cast iron grinder. "One for supper and one for breakfast," she explained, and also presented me with Grandpa's castoff corduroy cap with earflaps. "You've got nothing for your head," she cautioned, "so be sure to wear it and use the earflaps in case it snows, for it's still only April and you never know. . ."

She walked into the two-story barn, once used for great grandpa's buggy team and now my favorite place on the whole great homestead where Grandpa kept his tools and his childhood toys, and Grandma stored items left by boarders who had either died or been kicked out of town. One schoolteacher was partial to Black and White Scotch whisky. Grandma threw away her empty bottles, but saved the cunning little black and white plastic Scottie dogs which hung from the neck of each bottle and they ended up in the barn. When neighbor Clara DeBow gave me her older

son's toy cow barn, I used it to shelter the dogs, pretending they were Holsteins. Another teacher, who played in a dance band, left several musical instruments.

Grandma returned from the barn with my four-buckle rubber overshoes and an exotic melon-shaped mandolin, constructed with variegated strips of mahogany. "Put these overshoes on right now! They'll help protect your leather when they wear out. Take this funny-looking guitar, so on lonesome nights it'll keep you company and maybe someday you'll learn to really play it. Go now before it gets dark."

I headed West on Scranton Street, flopping in my galoshes, until I got to West Street, walked south for a block to the railroad tracks, and stared west. I immediately removed the wrappers of both baloney sandwiches and demolished them, made a quick U-turn and returned to my new home beside the fragrant Trempealeau River, certain now I would try to adjust—which I did, to tolerable effect, remembering that even Grandma cheated at Solitaire.

For years I kept my exotic, beautiful mandolin, a gift I will cherish, but never as much as I cherish my very foxy Grandma, whose clever ploy DID NOT save me from a picaresque life on America's highways and byways, but DID propel me back into the loving arms of my new family, which, in the end, turned out to be just fine.

Dave would like to hear from you. Phone him at 715-426-9544.



BILL BARTH'S *Column*

BY BILL BARTH

Courts to presidency, crashed by partisans

Most of the time these columns stick pretty close to home, on topics about the people and places around the region and state.

This one ranges a little farther afield, about the current state of American courts and the presidency.

On the other hand, I agree with the maxim that all politics is local. Those two institutions impact each and every one of us — and our kids and grandkids — in profound ways.

Going way back to when I took high school civics and government classes, my teacher — I remember her well, Mrs. Kiley — instructed students the courts' sole purpose is to mete out impartial justice and administer the law fairly and equally. The other two branches of government — legislative and executive — are subject to partisan politics. Judges have one guiding principle. The rule of law applies to everybody without exception — Democrat, Republican, rich, poor, ethnicity, gender. Everybody. Something has changed. And it's not good.

For most of my nearly five decades as a journalist, I would say courts managed to stay at arm's length from partisan politics. It could be frustrating. When we interviewed candidates for anything from local courts to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, those running typically would talk about only their education, backgrounds in legal practice and so forth. Ask a substantive question, they would decline to answer, on grounds the topic might one day come before them as a judge. Candidates could run on a paltry budget because it wasn't a knock-down partisan brawl.

Today, it's just the opposite. Wisconsin still calls these "nonpartisan races," but it's a lie and everybody knows it. Partisans pay the bills and, later, expect judges to pay it back by hewing to the ideological line. That applies in Wisconsin, where judges are elected.

Federal judges — including, most importantly, Supreme Court justices — are appointed. Anyone paying the slightest attention knows

partisanship now rules who does or doesn't get a nomination. Senate confirmation votes are almost entirely along partisan lines.

The Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity illustrates where that takes America. The principle that no one is above the law is dead. Presidents are above the law, immune for actions taken in office. Supporters of the decision — settled in a 6-3 vote with all conservative justices (five of them male) on one side and the three liberals (all female) on the other — say worries raised are basically hysteria.

Not true. Forget Trump. Look at Nixon. It was the Watergate cover-up that torpedoed his presidency and forced him to resign. But if the same circumstance occurred today, Nixon would be immune for the orders he issued from behind the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office. Meanwhile, all his aides — the ones who implemented the cover-up — could still be indicted for a crime, tried, convicted and jailed. That is the majority justices' new reality.

Courts rely on respect and trust for authority. Polling clearly shows respect and trust have plunged and today are in free-fall, coinciding with the partisan capture of the bench.

For those who still think it's worthwhile to look to the Founders for originalist guidance, consider this passage written by Alexander Hamilton in *Federalist Paper No. 77* regarding the lack of presidential, or post-presidential, immunity from prosecution:

"The answer to this question has been anticipated in the investigation of its other characteristics, and is satisfactorily deducible from these circumstances; from the election of the President once in four years by persons immediately chosen by the people for that purpose; and from his being at all times liable to impeachment, trial, dismission from office, incapacity to serve in any other, and to forfeiture of life and estate by subsequent prosecution in the common course of law."

The Founders' intent could not be more obvious. Presidential immunity from prosecution is a total fabrication by a partisan majority of today's United States Supreme Court.

Next topic: The 2024 presidential race. The choice, at least as of this writing, is between incumbent Joe Biden or former president Donald Trump.

The debate showed everything that matters. Biden, unless his head is on a swivel reading from a teleprompter, is lost. And Trump tells a lie every time he opens his mouth.

This is awful. The partisan political parties have presented Americans with an impossible choice. Out of 333 million Americans, this is the best we can do?

Biden has done many good things and is a decent man. But he's 81. He would be 86 if he completed a second term. Human beings lose a step (or more) as they age. I'm 72. I know. Biden should have stepped aside gracefully as a one-term president with a reasonably successful record. He didn't. This is a train wreck.

Trump is a man of low character. A self-centered liar who can't help but make everything about himself. Some good things happened during his one term in office. So did some unbelievable, awful, disqualifying things. By the way, he's 78.

Polls show strong majorities of Americans absolutely can't stomach either one and hate the choice. That proves Americans still have good judgment.

The same cannot be said for the Democrat and Republican parties.

If the Founders somehow can look down upon what rabid partisanship has done to the experiment they set in motion, their disgust and disappointment must be palpable.

Bill Barth is the former Editor of the Beloit Daily News, and a member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Hall of Fame. Write to him at bbarth@beloitdailynews.com.



MY View

BY JOHN MCLOONE

Time for a break?

It's been a hectic summer. I just came to the realization that it may be time for a vacation.

I don't take enough of them, and when I do, they're always working vacations. I wake up early and hammer out some work and take calls and emails all day when recreating. In our last official vacation, my wife chauffeured me out west. We were gone 10 days, and we had a lot of fun. I do recall, however, scrambling for a cell phone signal in the Teddy Roosevelt National Park because the newspapers were on deadline.

I'm a little bit jealous when I glance at social media and see people jetting off to exotic places. I travel a lot, but I'm not getting any frequent flyer miles. I log about 60,000 miles a year, returning to Point A at the end of

each day.

When our kids were young, we made a point to schedule a family trip each year. Of course, we did the Badlands. Of course, it was 100 degrees. We stopped on the way for the Laura Ingalls Wilder Festival in Walnut Grove to enrich the minds of our children. There was an old school, food trucks and some sort of exotic dancing demonstration. It wasn't exactly Little House on the Prairie. We forged westward from there, looping down to see the Corn Palace. All in all, it was a great family trip.

We made a couple loops south, driving straight through to Florida. Those trips were some doozies. At one stretch on the drive back when we were heading to the Smoky Mountains, we had an extremely restless daughter. I'm not naming names

here. I eventually moved to the back of the van with her and let her put makeup on me. Anything for a couple hours of peace, I thought.

We went through Toronto, Niagara Falls and back through Cleveland to see the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. We ate a lot of cold cut sandwiches in the minivan.

Then there was the trip I paid for with a colonoscopy. Our insurance at the time paid to have procedures done where it was less expensive. My wife and I spent a couple days in Pittsburgh and flew the three kids who could come out. We then spent a week in New York City, all expenses paid by the invasive procedure.

I'm ready for another one of those trips, minus the makeup and colonoscopy. I'm going to talk to my driver and have her start planning.

Letters

from Page 4

being a career politician, she has focused on building community and serving others. She founded a nonprofit organization to help others start small businesses and was appointed by Gov. Evers to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

I have personally met her and heard her speak. I was impressed by her confidence and enthusiasm, and feel she would represent us well in the Assembly.

*Alvina Stainer
River Falls*

Vote Van Orden in

November!

To the editor,

In last week's paper, I read a letter claiming Republicans like Derrick Van Orden have caused inflation. With respect, I'd like to express my profound disagreement.

Since the Biden/Harris Administration took over, inflation has reached historic levels. Under their reign, everything has gone up. Take groceries for example, items like milk are up 15%, bread - 30%, and eggs - 79%. All of a sudden, families are having to find an extra \$1,000 per month to get by.

Americans may be poorer under the Biden/Harris Administration, but they aren't stupid. We understand that out-of-control spending and foolish energy policy, fully supported by the Democrats

running in Wisconsin's 3rd District, are causing this inflation nightmare.

Republicans in Congress, like Rep. Derrick Van Orden, have fought these harmful economic policies. Van Orden is focused on making life affordable again, passing bills like the Fiscal Responsibility Act and Lower Energy Costs Act. He knows that ending inflationary spending and increasing energy production will help us prosper.

The Democrats running against Van Orden just don't get it. They'll be a rubber stamp for Kamala Harris's failed economic agenda, something western Wisconsin simply can't afford. Vote Van Orden in November!

*Stephanie Potton
River Falls*

WEATHER Forecast

Thu 01	81°/65°	Thunderstorms	67%
Fri 02	89°/65°	Sunny	8%
Sat 03	87°/65°	Mostly Sunny	7%
Sun 04	82°/62°	Partly Cloudy	24%
Mon 05	80°/63°	Scattered Thunderstorms	47%
Tue 06	79°/59°	AM Showers	35%
Wed 07	76°/57°	AM Showers	41%

ST. CROIX COUNTY Jail Log

Monday, July 22
LeVargis Lenard Brown, 61, St. Paul, by SCSO, sentenced, serving 240 days.
Junior Noe Tene Romero, 23, Baldwin, by Baldwin police, operate without valid license (second).
Carlos Gomez Gomez II, 20, Hudson, by Hudson police, warrant, operate without valid license (third).
Matthew Carl Franz, 36, Hammond, by SCSO, Rusk County warrant.
Randi Mae Piper, 35, Ellsworth, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Dustin Michael Curtis, 39, New Richmond, by SCSO, hold for St. Croix County courts.
Andy Lee Sergeivich Todd, 28, Cameron, by SCSO, operating after revocation.

Tuesday, July 23
Arthur W. Vanwert III, 49, Emerald, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct, probation hold.
Justin Casimer Myhre, 27, Ellsworth, by PCSO, warrant.
Tadd Earl Jansen, 50, Turtle Lake, by SCSO, disorderly conduct.

Wednesday, July 24
Eugene Duane Peterson, 62, New Richmond, by NR police, operating with PAC .02 or more (fifth or sixth).
Michael James Bartlein, 32, Baldwin, by Baldwin police, warrant.
Scott Bryon Genz, 44, Bayport, Minn., by SCSO, OWI-first (with passenger < 16).
Alyssa M. Littlewind, 29, Hayward, by NR police, trespass to land - remain after notice, retail theft - intentionally take, probation hold.

Thursday, July 25
Sheena L. Martinson, 36, homeless, by NR police, trespass to land - remain after notice, retail theft - intentionally take, probation hold, felony bail jumping.
Tanner Joshua Larson, 29, New Richmond, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Bryan Japon Gualan, 23, Baldwin, by SCSO, operate without valid license (second).
Byron Ivan Namcela Vera, 24, Baldwin, by Baldwin police, operate without valid license (third).
Brandon Lyle Henningsen, 34, Hudson, by SCSO, sentenced, serving 59 days.

Friday, July 26
Breann Ryan Wilson, 26, River Falls, by SCSO, warrant.
Deborah Cournoyer, 34, address not listed, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property.
Lucas Jon Ische, 43, Hudson, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
James Mark Williams II, 24, Deer Park, by SCSO, sentenced, serving four days.

PIERCE COUNTY Land Transfers

The following property transfers were recorded by the Pierce County Register of Deeds July 19-25.

Friday, July 19
Alexis A. Driscoll to Cassandra E. Lopez, NW-NE, Sec. 13, town of Gilman.
Tyler Rindahl to Derek J. Werner, north 20 feet of Lot 5, Lot 6, south half of Lot 7, Decker's Addition, Village of Spring Valley.
Scot (aka Scott) H. Banitt to Brent Wernlund, Lot 1, part of SW-SE, Sec. 32, town of El Paso.
Laura B. Miller to Brandon G. Eggers, Lot 26, located in NW-SW and in SW-SW, Sec. 19, and part of NE-SE, Sec. 24, town of Clifton.

Monday, July 22
Randy Brickner to Michael Stahlke, Lot 1, located in part of NE-SW, Sec. 19, Village of Ellsworth.
New Life Worship Center of River Falls Inc. to Bodhi Studios Real Estate LLC, westerly 40 feet of Lot 6, Block 12, Original Plat of the Village of Kinnickinnic, City of River Falls.

Thursday, July 25
Amanda Christine Warfel, 40, Dresser, by SCSO, misdemeanor bail jumping (two counts), felony bail jumping (two counts), domestic disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property.
Jonathan T. Mickelson, 27, Bruce, by Hudson police, hold for Hudson PD.
Logan Riley Gleason, 18, Hudson, by SCSO, warrant.
Bernard Joseph McClellan, 61, River Falls, by SCSO, warrant.
Malcolm X. Blakemore, 44, Chicago, by SCSO, warrant.
Ryan James Davey, 38, Eau Claire, by SCCC, sentenced, serving 132 days.
Shawna Kathleen Allegro, 44, Menomonie, by SCSO, warrant.
Steven Wertschnig, 48, Menomonie, by SCSO, warrant, sentenced, serving 44 days.

Neng Yang, 47, Green Bay, by SCSO, warrant.
Jordi Pacheco Ramirez, 25, Brooklyn Center, Minn., by SCSO, sentenced, serving 11 days.
David Peter Kiritschenko, 35, Oakdale, Minn., by SCCC, lewd, lascivious behavior - in public, disorderly conduct.
Emily Sue Fell, 35, New Richmond, by SCCC, domestic disorderly conduct.
Kenneth Burkhardt, 48, Forest Lake, Minn., by SCSO, fail to notify buyer of home improvement delay, theft - movable property > \$10,000, theft - business setting > \$10,000, misappropriate buyer prepayments under home improvement contract, fail to provide notice of lien waivers, failure to furnish notice of cancellation form by contractor, failure to furnish statement by contractor.
Jonathan Dean Stedt, 22, New Richmond, by SSO, warrant.
Jason P. Krahn, 44, St. Paul, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.

Friday, July 26
Breann Ryan Wilson, 26, River Falls, by SCSO, warrant.
Deborah Cournoyer, 34, address not listed, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property.
Lucas Jon Ische, 43, Hudson, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
James Mark Williams II, 24, Deer Park, by SCSO, sentenced, serving four days.

Sunday, July 28
Devon Henderson, 24, Chippewa Falls, by SCSO, possess amphetamine/LSD/psilocin.
Wendy Faye Wilson, 45, Deer Park, by Baldwin police, warrant.
Susan Kae Zeitz, 69, Roberts, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct, domestic battery.

Monday, July 29
Peter David Monahan, 64, High Bridge, by NR police, warrant (Ashland County).
Amara Marie King, 24, Hudson, by SCSO, misdemeanor bail jumping, domestic disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property.

Dimitriy John Campbell, 28, Hudson, by SCSO, sentenced, serving 30 days.
Joshua Lee Turner, 44, St. Paul, by SCSO, warrant.
Carson Lance Newville II, 41, Trego, by SCCC, hold for St. Croix County courts.
Austin Robert Anez, 24, New Richmond, by SCSO, OWI-second.
Adam Marshall Terwey, 39, Hudson, by SCSO, theft - movable property > \$10,000.
Joel Gutierrez-Castanon, 23, address not listed, by SCSO, hit and run, warrant.
Bryan C. Hahn, 47, New Richmond, by NR police, OWI-first.
Kyle Patrick McBride, 41, New Richmond, by Hudson police, misdemeanor bail jumping.

Saturday, July 27
Marie Ann Brims, 45, address not listed, by SCSO, domestic battery.
Tristan Michael Linsmeyer, 27, Hudson, by Hudson police, warrants.
Ryan A. Olson, 43, Eden Valley, Minn., by NR police, possess drug paraphernalia, possesses illegal article, resisting or obstructing an officer, two warrants, possession of THC (second+ offense).
Isaiah Jess Wallowingbull, 33, Hudson, by Hudson police, domestic disorderly conduct, domestic battery, theft - movable property, probation hold.
Michael Kevin Hectus, 30, New Richmond, by Baldwin police, domestic disorderly conduct.
Andrew B. Forehand, 34, Roberts, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct.

Monday, July 22
Timothy Michael Briese, 36, Wilson, by PCSO, burglary - building or dwelling, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Blake Donald Field, 32, East Bethel, Minn., by Prescott police, felony bail jumping, operating while revoked, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Scot Simmons, 55, Bloomington, Minn., by Wisconsin State Patrol, possession of THC, released on \$500 signature bond.

Tuesday, July 23
Hunter Steven Ness, 20, New Richmond, by PCSO, contempt of court - disobey order, released.
Lisa Ann Rydland, 57, River Falls, by River Falls police, OWI, operating while revoked, probation violation.

Wednesday, July 24
Wayne Kenneth Evans, 60, Beldenville, by PCSO, OWI, released on \$5,000 signature bond.

Thursday, July 25
Justin Casimer Myhre, 27, Ellsworth, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, bond reinstated, released.

Friday, July 26
Benjamin Charles Johnson, 40, Beldenville, by Department of Corrections, probation violation, operate without valid license.
Bradley Arthur Kuehn, 44, Prescott, by Prescott police, probation violation, possession of THC.
Cory Ryan Smith, 42, Red Wing, Minn., by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, bond reinstated, released.

Saturday, July 27
Lexus Marie Pickett, 27, River Falls, by PCSO, OWI, sentenced.

Sunday, July 28
None

Monday, July 22
Timothy Michael Briese, 36, Wilson, by PCSO, burglary - building or dwelling, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Blake Donald Field, 32, East Bethel, Minn., by Prescott police, felony bail jumping, operating while revoked, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Scot Simmons, 55, Bloomington, Minn., by Wisconsin State Patrol, possession of THC, released on \$500 signature bond.

Tuesday, July 23
Hunter Steven Ness, 20, New Richmond, by PCSO, contempt of court - disobey order, released.
Lisa Ann Rydland, 57, River Falls, by River Falls police, OWI, operating while revoked, probation violation.

ELLSWORTH Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to Ellsworth Police Department July 22-28.

Monday, July 22
A loose dog was reported at 7:39 a.m. at 736 Old West Main St. The owner came to get the dog.

Mohamed Abdi Mohamed, 40, Kent, Wash., was cited for operating without a valid commercial driver's license after his vehicle stalled at 9:51 a.m. at Maple and Main streets.

Police conducted a welfare check at 10:54 a.m. on a man at the police station (130 N. Chestnut St.) Deputies and Pierce County mental health workers arrived to assist. A man reported hearing voices and wanted help in getting a psych evaluation for a medication change.

At 3:01 p.m., a woman at 463 E. Wall St. requested help from police in getting the landlord to allow a man on the property that needs help with mental health issues. She was informed it was a civil matter, since he is not on a lease or rental agreement.

A caller requested a welfare check on a man who didn't show up for work at 4:55 p.m. at 191 Evergreen Estates St. He was okay.

At 8:37 p.m., a complainant reported losing a credit card at Family Dollar that someone then attempted to use at Nilsen's. Video was requested.

Tuesday, July 23
Police assisted EMS with a medical at 11:29 a.m. at 155 Evergreen Estates St.

At 3:32 p.m., police responded to 403 N. Maple St. for a disorderly resident. Everything was calm when they arrived.

At 3:51 p.m., police warned an individual for performing direct sales without a permit at 3:51 p.m. at 140 W. Cope St.

They were advised to obtain a permit from village hall.

Wednesday, July 24
At 6:27 a.m., police received a report of a man cutting himself at 463 E. Main St. A man was up all night talking and claiming family was doing stuff to his head. The man denied harming himself. Officers saw no evidence of blood in the bathroom or rented room.

At 10:23 a.m., a complainant reported a loose orange dog in the yard at 262 S. Grant St. The dog wasn't found.

Mayo Clinic requested a welfare check at 2:27 p.m. at 358 W. Main St. The subject wasn't home but over the phone denied making any concerning statements.

Thursday, July 25
Richard Joseph Daley, 55, Holly Hill, Fla., was cited for a traffic violation after a traffic stop at 8:57 a.m. at Main and Oak streets.

Friday, July 26
At 11:44 a.m., police responded to a dispute between an ex-girlfriend/ex-boyfriend at Crosstown Road and Maple Street that turned into vehicles making contact. Those involved were **Jeffrey Luke Johnson**, 38, South St. Paul, Minn., and **Matthew Joseph Murphy**, 50, Ellsworth.

At 3:37 p.m., a business called about an individual repeatedly panhandling for money at Nilssen's. The man said he lives in Ellsworth and is trying to get \$600 to buy a transmission for his car. Officers attempted to contact Salvation Army for assistance. He said he was on a village sidewalk and not Nilssen's property.

Police were dispatched to a home alarm at 5:11 p.m. at 481 W. Highland Drive. Police found a man mowing and all the doors and windows se-

cure. Officers responded at 7:11 p.m. to 739 W. Lucas Lane for a person having a possible heart attack. The person was unresponsive and compressions weren't working. EMS arrived and confirmed the death.

Saturday, July 27
Police were dispatched to a crash with injuries at 3:19 p.m. at 497 S. Maple St. **Cameron Curtis Weber**, 36, North Liberty, Iowa, was traveling southbound and struck a parked vehicle and trailer. EMS evaluated those on the scene.

At 6:26 p.m., a resident at 271 E. Summit Ave. called police upset because his water wasn't working. He hung up before they could assist him.

Michell Emmett O'Connell, 42, Hopkins, Minn., was cited for operate without valid license and possess drug paraphernalia after a traffic stop at 9:52 p.m. at Main and Broadway streets. Police saw cannabis wrappers in the glove box when he was looking for his registration. A small marijuana blunt was located in the vehicle.

Sunday, July 28
A suspicious vehicle with Minnesota plates was reported at 8:55 a.m. at 627 W. Kinne St. The car's owner said he was visiting a friend.

Police assisted EMS at 11:59 a.m. at Industrial Road and Maple Street. EMS transported the subject to Hudson.

A verbal domestic was reported at 1:30 p.m. at 583 N. Maple St. No one would answer the door until one of the suspect's mothers arrived. The subjects said it was verbal and physical but they weren't afraid of each other.

Police received a noise complaint at 11:48 p.m. at 444 E. Wall St. Police didn't hear anything.

PIERCE COUNTY Traffic and Forfeitures

Kevin Allen Heins, 59, River Falls, possess open intoxicants in motor vehicle - driver, dismissed.
Garrett Wicktor Mau, 20, Hudson, operating with PAC, dismissed; OWI-first, license revoked six months, alcohol assessment ordered, \$1,037.50; speeding, \$225.70.

Anthony Lee Rankin, 20, Red Wing, Minn., underage drinking/possession, \$263.50.

Ronald Tomczak, 67, Spring Valley, operating with PAC, dismissed; OWI-first, license revoked seven months, ignition interlock device and alcohol assessment ordered, \$1,019.50.

PIERCE COUNTY Jail Log

Monday, July 22
Timothy Michael Briese, 36, Wilson, by PCSO, burglary - building or dwelling, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Blake Donald Field, 32, East Bethel, Minn., by Prescott police, felony bail jumping, operating while revoked, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Scot Simmons, 55, Bloomington, Minn., by Wisconsin State Patrol, possession of THC, released on \$500 signature bond.

Tuesday, July 23
Hunter Steven Ness, 20, New Richmond, by PCSO, contempt of court - disobey order, released.
Lisa Ann Rydland, 57, River Falls, by River Falls police, OWI, operating while revoked, probation violation.

Wednesday, July 24
Wayne Kenneth Evans, 60, Beldenville, by PCSO, OWI, released on \$5,000 signature bond.

Thursday, July 25
Justin Casimer Myhre, 27, Ellsworth, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, bond reinstated, released.

Friday, July 26
Benjamin Charles Johnson, 40, Beldenville, by Department of Corrections, probation violation, operate without valid license.
Bradley Arthur Kuehn, 44, Prescott, by Prescott police, probation violation, possession of THC.
Cory Ryan Smith, 42, Red Wing, Minn., by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, bond reinstated, released.

Saturday, July 27
Lexus Marie Pickett, 27, River Falls, by PCSO, OWI, sentenced.

Sunday, July 28
None

Monday, July 22
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Blake Donald Field, 32, East Bethel, Minn., by Prescott police, felony bail jumping, operating while revoked, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
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Cory Ryan Smith, 42, Red Wing, Minn., by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, bond reinstated, released.

Saturday, July 27
Lexus Marie Pickett, 27, River Falls, by PCSO, OWI, sentenced.

Sunday, July 28
None

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10 QUESTIONS FOR AN OFFICER: *Sheriff Chad Koranda*

The *Pierce County Journal* appreciates the men and women who risk their lives every day to protect and serve our communities. We also want to help you get to know the men and women behind the badge in all Pierce County law enforcement agencies. Every few weeks, we will feature an officer and ask them a fun set of questions. When you see them on the street, make sure to say hi!

Meet Pierce County Sheriff Chad Koranda:

How long have you worked for Pierce County? I have worked for Pierce County for 20 years

What is your title, job duties? Currently, I represent all citizens of Pierce County in the elected roll of

Sheriff. Duties of the Sheriff can be very complex. The duties of the Sheriff and their origins pre-date Magna Carta and are outlined in the Constitution and WI Chapter 59.27.

Why did you become a sheriff's deputy? I love people. I love where they are from and what makes them unique. I also wanted to be part of something that was bigger than myself and to give back for the many blessings I've received. Law enforcement was a path to give back and to have and meet people from all different backgrounds.

What are your favorite sports teams to root for? I like Minnesota sports teams. All of them. Followed by Penn State football and anything UWRF. My former

roommate and teammate at the University of Wisconsin River Falls is currently the offensive coordinator for the University of Penn State. I do have a unique respect for the Brewers and Packers.

What is your favorite food? Prime rib, ice cream and Tim Tam cookies.

Where is the coolest place you've traveled? Recently I was in South Dakota and it had a profound effect on me. Knowing the history of the region and how it was shaped is important to every American. To have a monument built in the 1920's to early leaders is awe inspiring. Builders hung from ropes with a hammer, chisel and a stick of dynamite. KaBoom. What was really inspiring and should never be forgotten is the

struggles and triumphs of that era. The monument to Crazy Horse really got me thinking of the past and how we need to study history and learn from it so we don't make the same mistakes.

Who is your hero and why? My heroes are the moms and dads struggling to get by and support their families. The ones who realize the most important job they have is raising their children, often at a cost to their own wishes and wants. I see heroes everyday doing things for their communities that never get recognized or correctly compensated.

Teachers, store clerks, corrections officers and highway workers to name a few, working every day to make this world continue to operate. Those are my heroes.

Not multimillion-dollar athletes, singers, rappers or actors. That person with a smile and a strong hello even when their day has been terrible, that's a hero to me.

What was your favorite subject in school? Geography, History and Recess.

What's your favorite place in Pierce County? All of Pierce County has so much to offer and I really think it's amazing how the topography can change from the North to the South and the East to the West. I'd say a drive on a crisp October day or watching a local football game on a Friday night would be my favorite.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be? I would love to have the ability to read people's



Sheriff Chad Koranda

minds. Up until I read what they truly think of me... In a realistic sense I would like to be a great listener. A person who can truly listen to another with empathy and respect.

PIERCE COUNTY *Court Reports*

Initial appearances

Tonya Lee Allen, 45, River Falls, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$10,000 signature bond July 22 on two misdemeanor bail jumping charges. A status conference is scheduled for 2 p.m. Aug. 27.

A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Joseph Jacob Amyotte**, 33, Bloomington, Minn., who missed a July 22 initial appearance on felony possession with intent - THC and possess drug paraphernalia charges.

Alex Robert Andrews, 38, St. Paul, posted a \$10,000 signature bond July 22 on felony OWI (seventh/eighth or ninth), felony possession of methamphetamine, felony possession of narcotic drugs, theft of mail and possess drug paraphernalia charges. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Aug. 27.

Jeffrey James Baker, 56, Ellsworth, posted a \$10,000 signature bond July 22 on felony stalking and disorderly conduct charges. A status conference is slated for 8:45 a.m. Aug. 22.

Korey Lee Borchardt, 52, Ellsworth, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$500 signature bond July 17 on a disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charge. A status conference is slated for 11 a.m. Aug. 20.

Timothy M. Briese, 36, Wilson, posted a \$10,000 signature bond July 22 on a felony burglary - building or dwelling charge. A status conference is slated for 11:30 a.m. Aug. 22.

Kyle Hunter Doten, 29, Zimmerman, Minn., posted a \$10,000 signature bond July 17 on felony possession

of methamphetamine and possess drug paraphernalia charges. A preliminary hearing is set for 1:30 p.m. Aug. 22.

Kenneth Arnold Meixner Jr., 33, Ellsworth, was ordered to pay \$500 cash bond July 23 on felony battery or threat to judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer (repeater), resisting or obstructing an officer (repeater), disorderly conduct (repeater, domestic abuse), and possess drug paraphernalia (repeater) charges. A preliminary hearing is set for 10:30 a.m. Aug. 8.

A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Jackson James Merrill**, 17, Beldenville, who missed a July 22 initial appearance on a possess drug paraphernalia charge.

A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Kathryn Lynn Mullen**, 35, Cannon Falls, Minn., who missed a July 22 initial appearance on a possess drug paraphernalia charge.

Gary Eugene Nelson, 69, Menomonie, posted a \$10,000 signature bond July 17 on a felony bail jumping charge. A preliminary hearing is slated for 3:45 p.m. Aug. 13.

Raul Antonio Prado, 31, Red Wing, Minn., posted a \$5,000 signature bond July 22 on felony possession of narcotic drugs, operate firearm while intoxicated, resisting/failing to stop, OWI-third and possess drug paraphernalia charges. A status conference is scheduled for 2:15 p.m. Aug. 22.

Jose Ivan Santiago Santos, 43, River Falls, was ordered to pay \$500 cash bond July 18 on felony in-

timidate victim/threaten force (domestic abuse), felony child abuse - intentionally cause harm, battery (domestic abuse - infliction of physical pain or injury), misdemeanor bail jumping and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse - threat, domestic abuse - infliction of physical pain or injury) charges. An arraignment is slated for 1:45 p.m. Sept. 4.

Robert Charles Shaub, 51, Ellsworth, posted a \$2,500 signature bond July 18 on felony bail jumping and theft - movable property charges. A status conference is set for 10 a.m. Sept. 10.

Scot Simmons, 55, Bloomington, Minn., pleaded not guilty and posted a \$500 signature bond July 22 on a possession of THC charge. A status conference is slated for 11:45 a.m. Aug. 22.

A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Howard Samuel D. Stenerson**, 27, Red Wing, Minn., who missed a July 22 initial appearance on an operating while revoked (alcohol related) charge.

Tyler James Stich, 35, Spring Valley, was ordered to pay \$500 cash bond July 22 on felony attempt disarming a peace officer, felony bail jumping and resisting or obstructing an officer charges. A status conference is set for 9:30 a.m. Sept. 17.

Deferred cases

Jacob L. Harris, 17, River Falls, pleaded guilty to and entered into a deferred judgment of conviction agreement on a possess dangerous weapon - person < 18 charge July 22. The

charge stemmed from a Dec. 19 incident.

Laura Le Guade, 50, Prescott, pleaded guilty to and entered into a deferred judgment of conviction agreement on a disorderly conduct charge July 22. Felony strangulation and suffocation and battery charges were dismissed. The charges resulted from a Dec. 1 incident.

Matthew Jeremiah Mario Ramirez, 38, Red Wing, Minn., pleaded guilty to and entered into a deferred judgment of conviction agreement on a felony possession of methamphetamine charge July 18. Felony possession of narcotic drugs and possess drug paraphernalia charges were dismissed. The charges stemmed from a Dec. 29 incident.

Brandon Lynn Walker, 38, Ellsworth, was convicted of battery (domestic abuse) July 18, sentenced to two years of probation and fined \$543. He also pleaded guilty to and entered into a deferred judgment of conviction agreement on a felony strangulation and suffocation (domestic abuse) charge. Felony bail jumping, disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) and possess drug paraphernalia charges were dismissed. The charges stemmed from a Jan. 23 incident.

Closed cases

Brandon Allen Fuhrman, 25, Yuma, Ariz., was sentenced to two years in prison and one year of extended supervision July 18, fined \$518, ordered to pay \$150 in restitution and to register on the sex offender registry for 15 years. He

had been convicted of felony sexual assault of child by person who works or volunteers with children Jan. 11. The charge resulted from incidents Jan. 1, 2023 and Dec. 22, 2022.

Gabriel David Greenberg, 44, Hager City, was convicted of possess amphetamine/LSD/psilocin and possession of THC July 17, sentenced to one year's probation and fined \$710. Felony possess with intent - THC and possess drug paraphernalia charges were dismissed. The charges stemmed from a Feb. 22 incident.

A disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charge against **Zachery Richard Hall**, 41, River Falls, was dismissed July 17 upon completion of a deferred judgment of conviction agreement. The charge resulted from an April 25, 2023 incident.

Operate without valid license (second within three years) and possess drug paraphernalia charges against **Jacob L. Harris**, 17, River Falls, were dismissed July 22. The charges stemmed from a Feb. 14 incident.

Kevin Allen Heins, 59, River Falls, was convicted of operate without carrying license and fined \$210.80 July 18. The charge resulted from an Aug. 30, 2023 incident.

Shalyn Renaye Larry, 20, Mankato, Minn., was convicted of disorderly conduct and fined \$277.80 July 18. The charge stemmed from an April 24 incident.

Ashley Mae Myers, 30, Hudson, was convicted of OWI-second July 22, sentenced to 15 days in jail (10 days stayed), fined, \$1,529

and ordered to install an ignition interlock device for 12 months after a 12-month driver's license revocation. An operating with PAC-second charge was dismissed. The charges resulted from a June 11, 2023 incident.

Thomas Robert Cody O'Shea, 35, Prescott, was convicted of operate without valid license (second within three years) July 18 and fined \$443. The charge stemmed from a Nov. 17, 2021 incident.

Leroy Joseph Schmidt, 50, Moorhead, Minn., was convicted of operate without carrying a license and fined \$277.80 July 18. The charge resulted from an April 3 traffic stop.

Kelly Duane Taylor, 56, Welch, Minn., was convicted of operate without carrying a license and fined \$277.80 July 17. The charge stemmed from a June 5 incident.

Brandon Lynn Walker, 38, Ellsworth, was convicted of disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) July 18, sentenced to two years of probation and fined \$543. Felony possession of methamphetamine, felony possession of narcotic drugs, possess drug paraphernalia and eight felony bail jumping charges were dismissed. The charges resulted from incidents Feb. 11, Feb. 12 and June 2.

A felony possession of methamphetamine charge against **Rusty Alan Wiesender**, 65, Ellsworth, was dismissed July 18 upon completion of a deferred judgment of conviction agreement. The charge stemmed from a March 4, 2023 incident.

PRESCOTT *Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to Prescott Police Department July 22-28.

Monday, July 22

Blake Donald Field, 32, East Bethel, Minn., was cited for operate vehicle without registration lamps and arrested for felony bail jumping and operating while revoked (alcohol related) after a traffic stop at 1:58 a.m. at Kinnickinnic and Elm streets.

Officers conducted a welfare check at 5:49 p.m. at 1408 Pearl St. Everything was fine.

Tuesday, July 23

Officers responded to a suspicious vehicle call at 9:55 a.m. at 879 Helen St. No suspicious activity was observed.

Nicholas David Harer, 25, White Bear Lake, Minn., was cited for windshields - tinting - critical area after a traffic stop at 11:03 a.m. at Jefferson and Walter streets.

Police were called to a vandalism report at 12:20 p.m. at 200 Monroe St.

Zachary Matthew Simones, 32, Prescott, was cited for possession of THC and possess drug paraphernalia after a traffic stop for no front license plate and an illegible rear license plate at 3 p.m. at Warren and Jefferson streets.

At 5:09 p.m., police spoke with an individual about performing direct sales at 5:09 p.m. at Walnut Street and Linden Road. They were ordered to gather their team and cease operations until a permit was acquired.

Danielle Lee Hanson, 37, River Falls, was cited for operating a motor vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop at 8:14 p.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

Wednesday, July 24

Officers checked on a suspicious person at a storage unit at 2:10 a.m. at 775 Canton St. Everything appeared to be okay.

At 2:29 a.m., police observed a person sleeping in a vehicle at Pearl Street and Highway 10. He said he was fine.

Joel John Kanz, 43, Savage, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 7:17 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

Pedro Demetrio Chan-Perez, 37, Houston, Texas, was cited for a commercial vehicle parking violation at 9:19 a.m. at Dexter Street and Ryden Road.

Officers were asked to conduct a welfare check at 3:28 p.m. at 1005 Eagle Ridge Drive but were unable to locate anyone.

At 3:44 a.m., police spoke with a storage property owner about an unauthorized trailer left at 775 Canton St.

Suspicious activity was reported at 9:47 p.m. at 1377 Orrin Road.

Michael Gerard Soricelli, 40, Minneapolis, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:22 p.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

Thursday, July 25

Ernest Vincent Davis Jr., 65, River Falls, was cited for operating while revoked after a traffic stop for speeding at 10 a.m. at Broad

Street and Highway 10. Officers responded to a report of sales/solicitation without a permit at 1:11 p.m. at 1369 Walnut St. The seller was unaware no permit had been acquired and said he would inform his manager and co-workers.

Carter Phillip Nelson, 31, Eden Prairie, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 3 p.m. at Oak and Lake streets.

Friday, July 26

Officers responded to a possible stabbing at 3:23 a.m. at 1354 Ash St. **Bradley Arthur Kuehn**, 44, Prescott, was arrested for a probation violation. A woman was released pending charges.

Seth Michael Westover, 36, River Falls, was cited for operate without valid license after a traffic stop for speeding at 3:28 p.m. at 302 Lake St.

Saturday, July 27

A caller reported a possible burglary at 12:50 a.m. at 182 Borner St. No burglary occurred.

Tiffany Jean Rhyne, 39, Council Bluffs, Iowa, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 6:57 a.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

Emily Jean Moseng, 33, Sauk Rapids, Minn., was cited for operate without valid license after a traffic stop at 8:25 a.m. at Lawrence and Jefferson streets.

Allison Fabyanske Eklund, 56, Roseville, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 9:43 a.m. at Lawrence and Jefferson streets.

Alexander Timkin, 48, Prior Lake, Minn., was cited

for failure to display boat launch permit/fee at 11:17 a.m. at 451 Second St.

Joshua Luke McClellan, 44, River Falls, was cited for failure to display boat launch permit/fee at 11:31 a.m. at 451 Second St.

Officers checked on a vehicle parked at a school closed for construction at 12:48 p.m. at 505 Campbell St. The person was working inside.

Noelle E. Lyle, 40, Fairbanks, Alaska, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 2:37 p.m. at Jefferson and

Dexter streets.

Officers conducted a welfare check at 4:43 p.m. at 1028 Borner St. The resident was fine.

At 11:55 p.m., police tried to assist a woman help getting home after being kicked out of No Name (114 Broad St.) She declined their aid.

Sunday, July 28

Thomas Mark Witzel, 74, Cottage Grove, Minn., was cited for parking in the BNSF gravel parking lot at 1:16 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and

Second streets.

Heidi Mae Adricula, 48, Hastings, Minn., was cited for parking in a marked handicapped spot at 3:21 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Second streets.

Officers were dispatched to an assault at 5:31 p.m. at Ash and Front streets. People were stopped prior to leaving the scene. They denied any physical altercation. They admitted to drinking and found a responsible person to drive.

On August 13th

Vote YES on Referendum Questions 1 & 2

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Vote ERIC HOVDE for US Senate Primary

Restore common sense, strong leadership, and the American dream!



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PIERCE COUNTY Sheriff's Office Reports

The following incidents were reported to Pierce County Sheriff's Office July 22-29.

Monday, July 22

At 7:18 a.m., police responded to a single-vehicle crash called in after the fact at county roads S and U in Plum City. The vehicle had already been removed. The driver was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign.

A complainant reported at 10:01 a.m. that a neighbor's dog keeps coming onto his property at W8328 Highway 35, Hager city. The neighbor said the complainant's dog does the same thing. He said the neighbors have made numerous complaints about him in the past regarding other issues that were unfounded.

At 10:50 a.m., deputies transported an inmate to Western Wisconsin Health for a Chapter 51 medical evaluation. He was then taken to the state facility in Winnebago.

Cattle were in the roadway at 12:04 p.m. at N4962 County Road CC, Elmwood. The owner was in the process of rustling them back into place.

Deputies conducted a welfare check at 4:05 p.m. at Main and Oak streets in Plum City. The man was fine.

At 4:38 p.m., police assisted EMS at W2083 570th Ave., Elmwood, where a man was stung by a bee and had difficulty breathing.

Officers received an animal complaint at 7:44 p.m. at W1611 265th Ave., Plum City.

Police responded to a domestic at 8:15 p.m. at n5452 170th St., Elmwood. The parties were separated for the night.

Deputies were asked to conduct a welfare check at 10:44 p.m. at 610th Street and Highway 63, Ellsworth. The vehicle was not located.

Tuesday, July 23

Police were called at 7:01 a.m. to N1740 County Road C, Bay City, where a suspicious bag was left on the side of the road. Police went through it, but didn't find any identifying information inside or on it. It was taken to sheriff's office.

Officers performed a welfare check on a man at 8:27 a.m. at W3540 Lakeview Ave., Maiden Rock. He was fine.

Deputies were dispatched

to a possible domestic at 12:01 p.m. at 230 S. Main St., Elmwood. The subjects were just arguing about family pets. A female was spoken to about mental health issues. A man was arrested for a Taylor County warrant.

Deputies assisted with a medical at 6:24 p.m. at W8128 690th Ave., River Falls.

Deputies assisted River Falls police with a probation violation at 8:05 p.m. at 979 Falcon Drive.

A driver was arrested for OWI-fifth after police saw the vehicle cross the center line several times at 10:33 p.m. near 870th Street and 650th Avenue, River Falls.

Wednesday, July 24

Deputies arrived at 12:50 a.m. at N2001 690th St., Bay City, for a medical call. In plain sight in the house, they located drug paraphernalia, which was seized.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police with a welfare check at 6:30 a.m. at 463 E. Wall St. The subject did not want law enforcement help.

A caller reported finding graffiti on a power pole and abandoned building on a property he owns at 9:11 a.m. at W10026 290th Ave., Hager City.

A caller reported eight loose cows (two of them calves) at 9:38 a.m. at N3153 County Road QQ, Hager City.

They were last seen in the bean field across from the listed address behind a red shed. A note was left on the owner's door.

At 9:41 a.m., police received a report of a motorist making handgun gestures near Highway 63 and 825th Street, Hager City. They then almost hit a bicyclist. Police noted a number of driving complaints against the subject. A driver's condition report will be completed.

Deputies were dispatched to a theft at 11:08 a.m. at N5966 County Road QQ, Prescott. The complainant said mail and vehicle license plates were stolen.

Police were given information about a dog locked in a vehicle at 12:12 p.m. at W6324 Highway 35, Bay City. The vehicle was running with the AC on.

Deputies were dispatched

to assist a fire department with a wildfire on the roadside at 2:53 p.m. at 742nd Avenue and County Road F, River Falls. The fire was contained.

At 4 p.m., a farmer found a weather balloon, GPS and camera in his field while cutting hay at W5512 Highway 10, Ellsworth. The owner had a phone number attached to the balloon.

Suspicious activity was reported at 4:57 p.m. at Pine Street and Oak Hill Road, Plum City. Nothing was found.

At 8:06 p.m., a caller reported a low-flying drone and suspicious vehicle in the area near W12175 Highway 29, Prescott. Nothing was found.

Police were asked to respond at 8:31 p.m. to County Road P, Elmwood, for an intoxicated person, who was not located.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at 8:44 p.m. near County Road C and 155th Avenue, Bay City. It was not found.

Thursday, July 25

Deputies assisted EMS with a medical at 2:50 a.m. at N1090 375th St., Maiden Rock.

Police were called at 6:51 a.m. to Highway 29 and 290th Street, Spring Valley, for a loose horse complaint. The horses were back in their fence when deputies arrived.

Loose horses were reported at 7:55 a.m. at W7048 170th Ave., Bay City. The horse owner collected the horses.

At 8:12 a.m., a caller reported someone had come to her residence at W7355 165th Ave., Hager City, the day before and now there is oil all over the side of her house. The caller said she contacted utility companies and they all stated they had no work orders there.

Police assisted disabled motorists at 8:57 a.m. at N7789 Highway 65, River Falls. Was person was detained due to a marijuana smell. Contraband was seized and destroyed. The man contacted a ride and was told to remove the vehicle in 48 hours.

A dog bite was reported at 11:56 a.m. at W2026 Highway 72, Elmwood.

At 2:32 p.m., police received an animal neglect complaint at S546 Wagon

Trail Road, Spring Valley. The report will be forwarded to Spring Valley police.

Officers responded to a domestic at 4:24 p.m. at N617 Foote Ave., Spring Valley. CYF was contacted.

Theft was reported at 4:27 p.m. at N5246 635th St., Ellsworth.

At 5:07 p.m., police saw a truck pulling a trailer pull out at an intersection at Highway 65 and 690th avenue, Beldenville, and strike several mailboxes with the trailer.

At 6:01 p.m., police responded to W3104 190th Ave., Maiden Rock, for a burglary/domestic animal theft. Police collected evidence.

At 7:27 p.m., a complainant wanted to report a helicopter spraying near his residence at N4097 730th St., Ellsworth.

Friday, July 26

Deputies assisted Prescott police with an arrest at 3:24 a.m. at 1254 Ash St.

A missing dog was reported at 8:12 a.m. at N8442 650th St., River Falls. It was located safe.

Police conducted a welfare check at 10:08 a.m. at W1005 Cardinal Drive, Spring Valley. Both people were fine.

At 10:16 a.m., a caller at N8513 1234th St., River Falls, reported a scam call. The scammer said someone had used the complainant's credit card to buy electronics and that a vehicle under his name had been stolen and recovered. He hung up and gave no person information to the caller.

At 11:08 a.m., a garbage truck backed into a car in the parking lot at 312 W. Race Ave., Elmwood.

Police responded to a driving complaint/minor collision allegation at 11:52 a.m. at Crosstown Road and Maple Street, Ellsworth.

A caller reported a suspicious vehicle parked at 12:41 p.m. near N1950 385th St., Maiden Rock. The owner was fishing and on his way home.

Police responded to a motorcycle vs. tree crash at 1:57 p.m. at N673 825th St., Hager City. The person was arrested for OWI-third and transported to Regions Hospital in St. Paul via helicopter.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police with a home

alarm at 5:13 p.m. at 481 W. Highland Drive.

At 5:26 p.m., a caller at 307 W. Winter Ave., Elmwood, called police with complaints about UFO Days. He was referred to the village board.

Police conducted a welfare check at 6:14 p.m. at 122 W. May Ave., Elmwood. The woman was fine.

Deputies were dispatched to a harassment complaint at 7 p.m. at N5751 County Road E, River Falls. The caller reported calls and texts from a suspect. She was advised of the restraining order process. While police were on the phone with the complainant, the suspect arrived at the residence. Deputies, over the phone, advised him to leave; he was cooperative.

At 7:25 p.m., a man reported suspicious vehicles and people in the area near W12700 735th Ave., River Falls. Extra patrol was conducted.

Deputies assisted EMS with an intoxicated person at 8:50 p.m. at W10001 County Road FF, River Falls.

Police were dispatched to a loud noise complaint at 10:04 p.m. at Highway 35 and 770th Street, Hager City. Loud music was coming from the Harbor Bar.

Officers observed a man riding a lawnmower at 10:32 p.m. at Wilson Avenue and Public Street, Elmwood.

Saturday, July 27

Deputies assisted Prescott police with a medical call at 2:42 a.m. at 164 Broad St.

At 3:12 a.m., a caller at W8438 Highway 35, Hager City, reported his wife had left the residence on foot and not returned. She returned a few hours later.

At 12:23 p.m., a caller reported a man showed up at W1930 Highway 35, Prescott, claiming to work for ADT. He was told to call back if the man came back.

Deputies assisted with a motor vehicle accident at 3:20 p.m. at 509 South St., Ellsworth.

Officers responded to a motorcycle vs. car crash at 5:50 p.m. at Highway 35 and 468th Avenue, Prescott.

Police were dispatched to a possible domestic at 8:38 p.m. at N8090 620th St., Beldenville. A man was given

a ride home.

At 9:52 p.m., a caller reported a vehicle on the side of the road with a woman and children at 570th Street and Highway 35, Bay City. They were not found.

People were warned about the fireworks ordinance at 10:01 a.m. at N5833 770th St., Ellsworth.

Sunday, July 28

Illegal narcotics were seized at 12:22 a.m. at N1090 825th St., Hager City.

Illegal narcotics were seized at 2:18 a.m. at N673 825th St., Hager City.

Police checked on a person walking at 3:17 a.m. near Highway 65 and County Road O, River Falls. The person was given a courtesy ride back to her residence.

At 4:01 a.m., a caller reported a possible intoxicated driver at N4883 County Road OO, Hager city. No one was located.

Deputies responded to a grass fire at 12:44 p.m. at N3752 County Road OO, Hager city. A small outbuilding was also on fire. The property owner stated they'd been burning the day before in that location.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police with a possible domestic at 1:31 p.m. at 583 N. Maple St.

Loose dogs were reported at 2:31 p.m. at N1585 721st St., Bay City.

Deputies assisted Prescott police at 6:01 p.m. at Ash and Front streets.

Deputies assisted Spring Valley police at 8:33 p.m. at 116 S. McKay Ave.

Officers were dispatched to a civil matter involving family members moving out of a residence at 9:24 p.m. at W8053 290th Ave., Hager City. A plan was put into place for the individuals to gather property and leave.

Monday, July 29

A fallen tree was found in the roadway at 4:19 a.m. at 385th Street and Highway 35, Maiden Rock. The township removed the tree.

Police responded to a home alarm at 4:40 a.m. at N7480 County Road BB, Spring Valley.

PIERCE COUNTY Accident Reports

Deputies responded to a two-vehicle crash at 5:50 p.m. June 19 on Highway 63 one-third mile east of County Road VV in the town of Trenton between a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by **Richard Joseph Leibfried**, 65, River Falls, and a 2002 Toyota Tundra, driven by **Gary Charles Bee**, 63, Plum City. Leibfried was traveling north on Highway 63, while Bee was heading south (with a trailer) on Highway 63. Leibfried was not paying attention or fell asleep, crossed the center line and struck the trailer Bee was towing. He then struck the guardrail face and came to rest in the southbound lane. Leibfried's vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Bee's trailer and vehicle had minor damage. No injuries were reported. Leibfried was cited for failure to keep a vehicle under control.

Police were dispatched at 11:51 a.m. June 27 to a three-vehicle crash at N3941 Highway 35 in the town of Diamond Bluff between a 2023 Chrysler Voyager, driven by **Yuel Michael Holmes**, 62, Carson, Calif.; a 2020 Peterbilt semi, driven by **Mikel Roy Lueck**, 58, Princeton, Minn.; and legally parked 2023 Peterbilt semi, owned by River City Metal LLC, Prescott. Holmes and Lueck were operating northbound on Highway 35; two other vehicles were behind Lueck that were not involved in the accident. Holmes began passing in a no passing zone and entered the southbound traffic lane to overtake Lueck and the vehicles between them. Lueck was preparing to make a left-hand turn into River City Metals and was struck by Holmes. The impact caused him to enter the business' parking lot and strike the parked semi. Video surveillance and witnesses said the semi had his left-turn signal flashing. 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RIVER FALLS *Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to River Falls Police Department June 3 through July 6.

Monday, June 3

Officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at 4:11 p.m. in the parking lot of 1415 Bartosh Lane between a 2019 Ford F150, driven by **Cynthia Susan Kornmann**, 62, Ellsworth, and a 2019 Chrysler Pacifica, driven by **Nichole Emily Larson**, 43, River Falls. Larson was negotiating a curve in the parking lot when Kornmann backed into her. Kornmann's vehicle had minor damage while Larson's vehicle had functional damage. No injuries were reported.

Thursday, June 6

A hit and run was reported at 10:15 a.m. at Dick's (1121 S. Main St.) A woman reported someone had backed into her vehicle between 4-5:30 p.m. June 5. There was no camera footage available and no suspects.

Tuesday, June 11

Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 3:44 p.m. at Elm and Main streets between a 2014 Audi S5, driven by **Amy Marie Edelman**, 51, River Falls, and a 2014 Jeep Cherokee, driven by **Gary Louis Cecere Jr.**, 31, Woodbury, Minn. Edelman was traveling east on Elm Street and Cecere was traveling north through the alley between Elm and Second streets. Cecere, who had a stop sign, pulled into the roadway, turned left and collided with Edelman. Both vehicles had minor damage. No injuries were reported. Cecere Jr. was cited \$98.80 for fail/stop/emerging from alley and \$124 for operating motor vehicle without insurance.

Friday, June 14

Police responded at 10:03 p.m. to the area of 350 Nicole Lane for a 911 hangup call. When they reached the caller, she reported her partner was having a mental breakdown. She said her partner damaged a wall by throwing a cup and isn't on the right medication. The partner broke down in tears and said she's been trying to find a job with medical insurance and hasn't been feeling right. The case was forwarded to Pierce County for assistance options.

Sunday, June 16

Troy M. Reis, 48, River Falls, was arrested and cited \$850 for OWI-third after a traffic stop at 10:11 p.m. at Second and Elm streets for a burnt out taillight. Reis had a case of Coors Light on the seat next to him and officers found an empty can in the backseat. Reis' speech was slurred and his eyes bloodshot and glossy. After completing field sobriety tests, police obtained a search warrant for a blood draw at the hospital. He registered a BAC of .10. He was cooperative throughout the contact and was transported to Pierce County Jail without incident.

Monday, June 17

Officers responded to vehicle vs. deer crash at 12:43 p.m. at on Highway 35 north of County Road M. A 2007 Chevy Malibu, driven by **Scott Terry Henning**, 63, Ellsworth, was traveling northbound on Highway 35 and had just crossed over the Division Street bridge. Henning said he swerved to avoid a deer, lost control and the car went into a spin. Henning entered the east ditch backwards and struck a sign post, causing functional damage. The vehicle had to be removed from the ditch by a tow truck. Henning reported no injuries.

Police were dispatched at 1:22 p.m. to a theft at Kwik Trip (1536 Cemetery Road) that had occurred at 10:45 p.m. June 9. A man took a bottle of wine and stuck it in his pants. It was valued at \$12.49. A 16-year-old juvenile was identified and admitted to taking the wine and drinking it in Wells Park. He was fined \$187 for retail theft - intentionally conceal and \$98.80 for underage drinking/possession of alcohol.

At 2:43 p.m., a resident in the 2000 block of Michael Lane reported repeated issues with a neighbor and her son. She said the son has 10-20 people over every night, drinking and smoking marijuana. She also reported the woman's dog running off leash and attacking other dogs and the juvenile playing loud music outside. The complainant provided police with video evidence and requested extra patrol.

Officers met with complainants at 3:33 p.m. in the police station lobby regarding a theft complaint about Artisan Builders LLC. The couple said they have been going through a basement remodel with the company for one year at 2710 Morningside Ave. and their attorney advised them to report theft by contractor. The project was set to cost \$59,950 and be completed by July 1, 2024. The couple said two doors have been installed but nothing else. About \$15,000-\$20,000 worth of materials remains in the basement to be installed. The couple said **Bret Vanblaircom**, 60, River Falls, would do a little work then disappear for a week or more. They had written him about \$64,000 in checks for materials. Charges of felony bail jumping, felony theft by contractor, felony theft - false representation > \$10,000, and felony theft - business setting > \$10,000 were filed.

A hit and run crash was reported at 4:36 p.m. at 100 Spring St. A legally parked 2017 Dodge Journey, owned by **James Byron Blair**, River Falls, had been struck sometime between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. in the Jimmy John's parking lot. There was minor damage to the vehicle's front right corner. No injuries were reported.

Officers were sent at 5:24 p.m. to speak with a resident at 1823 Morning Glory Drive about a harassment complaint. The woman accused her ex-best friend, who had married into her family, of defaming her on social media and over text. She was given options for temporary restraining orders.

Police were dispatched at 11:42 p.m. to 315 W. Johnson St. where a windshield had been broken and a rear window shattered in a 2014 Jeep Patriot, owned by **Jared Michael Mickelson**, 23, River Falls. The windows appeared to have been damaged by a BB gun. The owner said he returned home at 7:15 p.m. and fell asleep at 8 p.m. His roommate discovered the damage around 11:30 p.m. Police went to a neighboring house where a juvenile is known to carry around a BB gun. The juvenile's mother let the officer inside after the officer saw a runaway juvenile through the window. She had told officers she hadn't seen the juvenile, who is friends with her child, in days. The 15-year-old runaway juvenile was located hiding under clothing in a bedroom closet. He was arrested and transported to Northwest Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Eau Claire. Police located the runaway juvenile's friend, a 14-year-old, at Kwik Trip (1200 S. Main St.) He admitted to shooting the Jeep's windows out "by accident" with a BB sniper gun. He said he was mad his mother was sending him away so he trashed her house and started shooting the gun "at nothing" out the window. He too was transported to the juvenile detention facility in Eau Claire. His mother told police she'd lied to them about the runaway juvenile being in her house because she was scared. The windows would cost about \$500-\$600 to replace.

Tuesday, June 18

At 11:25 a.m., a resident in the 2000 block of Michael Lane called police about a neighbor's dog being off-leash and making a mess in her yard at 11:30 p.m. June 17. She provided video of the incident. **Colette Yvonne Harris**, 61, River Falls, was cited \$98.80 for dog running at large - leash required after receiving several warnings.

At 11:32 a.m., a Hudson woman filed a missing persons report on her child's father, **Heath M. Winland**, 39, last known address River Falls. The last time she saw him was May 15 at a child support hearing involving their daughter. When she tried dropping some mail off at his residence at 1063 E. Cascade Ave., residents there told her he had moved out a month ago. She said Winland suffers from depression, arthritis and a heart condition and had made suicidal comments. Police did not locate him.

At 1:53 p.m., a resident at 320 Lincoln St. reported theft by contractor related to a job to be completed by **Bret Vanblaircom**, 60, River Falls, of Artisan Builders. The resident said he won a civil judgment in small claims court the week prior for job Vanblaircom was supposed to finish but didn't. He paid Vanblaircom \$15,000 initially for a bathroom remodel project in 2021. The last

time work was completed was in 2022; he said Vanblaircom stopped responding to his texts and calls. The information was documented for a St. Croix County case.

At 2:26 p.m., a 20-year-old woman reported a driving complaint not in progress that had occurred at Main Street and Cascade Avenue. The woman said an older man had gotten out of his vehicle to confront her about "driving too fast." He had been going about 20 mph and slowed to turn into a driveway, so she went around him at about 25 mph. She said he instead followed her to the traffic light, got out and banged on her window and took off in a red Ford F250 about 10 minutes prior to her calling police. Officers tracked down the 72-year-old suspect by phone on June 24. He admitted to "tapping" on the woman's window and admitted he was out of line. He was given a warning.

At 3:16 p.m., police found a stolen 2014 Honda Pilot parked in a lot at 360 Broadway St. The vehicle had been reported stolen out of Stillwater, Minn. by **Gary Pearson**, 71, Stillwater, Minn. Police had the vehicle towed to the impound lot. The case is under investigation.

Police were dispatched at 5:33 p.m. to 1218 State St. for a disorderly woman who had put a hole in the wall with electrical wires and was trying to choke herself. The 22-year-old woman was upset about living at the group home. Police found a hole in the wall 12 inches in diameter with a puddle of urine beneath. Staff members said when they returned from a group outing, the woman sat on the couch and began choking herself for about 20 minutes. Then she began hitting her head against a wall. Allina EMS transported her to the hospital. A safety plan was put into place and the woman returned to the home.

Wednesday, June 19

Officers responded at 8:42 a.m. to River Falls Area Hospital (1629 E. Division St.) for a dog bite that occurred around 5:30 p.m. near the river in Glen Park. A man walking a pitbull came past and lunged at his dog. He tried to protect his dog and the pitbull bit his arm. He didn't know the owner's name or get his information. He had his wife take him to the ER later in the evening.

Sawyer Mckenzie Klingsporn, 21, River Falls, was cited \$187 for possess drug paraphernalia after a traffic stop at 9:24 p.m. at Third and Walnut streets for an inoperable headlight. During the traffic stop police smelled marijuana. Klingsporn and his passenger claimed they'd last smoked in Minnesota. Inside the vehicle officers found a purple grinder, a glass smoking apparatus, a scale, a blunt rolling tool, an empty package of blunt wraps, a raw glass container containing a "boosted cone," and a nicotine vape.

Thursday, June 20

Officers were dispatched at 2:42 p.m. to a two-vehicle crash at Elm and Fourth streets between a 2014 Honda Odyssey, driven by **Todd William Johnson**, 51, River Falls, and 2019 Audi Q8, driven by **Mary Susan Marcel**, 62, River Falls. Johnson was heading north on Fourth Street while Marcel failed to yield from a stop sign on Elm Street. Marcel pulled out in front of Johnson and Johnson struck her side. Marcel said she didn't know if she'd seen the stop sign or stopped for it. Both vehicles were towed due to disabled damage. Johnson had suspected minor injuries but wasn't transported. His passengers, age 10 and 13, reported no injuries. Marcel reported no injuries. She was cited \$313 for fail/stop/right/way from stop sign (resulting in bodily harm).

At 3:04 p.m., a resident at 215 W. Cedar St. reported a package had been stolen after its 12:49 p.m. delivery. The package contained \$80 worth of Victoria Secret underwear. The neighbor said her kids had brought the package to her, then returned it to the mailbox area when she told them it wasn't hers. It wasn't located.

Police responded at 5:06 p.m. to 1536 S. Wasson Lane to conduct a welfare check on a man who was "unstable," screaming and full of rage at the neighbors. **Jared Walter Schuett**, 32, River Falls, had become upset after being served with a temporary restraining order. When a neighbor came to check on his fian-

cée, who was crying, he got in her face and screamed at her. He was arrested for disorderly conduct and transported to Pierce County Jail.

Officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at 7:34 p.m. at High Ridge Road and Johnson Street between a 2004 Hyundai Sonata, driven by **Michael Robert Foster**, 40, Prescott, and a legally parked 2009 Honda Civic, owned by **Joseph Dennis Nowak**, River Falls. Foster was backing out of a driveway and possibly struck Nowak's car, causing a small dent and bumper separation. A witness said she saw Nowak's car move, but wasn't sure if Foster struck it. Foster's vehicle had no damage. No injuries were reported.

Saturday, June 22

At 3:36 a.m., a man reported a possible drunk driver all over the road at Main and Locust streets. Police followed the vehicle as it left town north on Highway 35. The officer pulled over **Brady Scott Bonngard**, 21, Hudson, on westbound I-94 between exits 2 and 3. Hudson police took over the traffic stop. Officers noted the car smelled of intoxicants and saw a Spotted Cow beer box and bottle of alcohol behind the passenger.

Dylan Anthony Tashjian, 23, Shafer, Minn., was cited \$187 for possess drug paraphernalia after a traffic stop at 10:16 p.m. at Highway 35 and Main Street for inoperable trailer lights. During the stop officers noted a strong marijuana smell. Tashjian admitted to smoking marijuana earlier while fishing. Police searched his vehicle and boat, confiscating 5.67 grams of marijuana, green metal grinder, and two metal smoking devices. Tashjian was cited and released.

Monday, June 24

Police responded at 2:23 p.m. to Kwik Trip (1536 Cemetery Road) for two \$100 counterfeit bills. The 54-year-old suspect told police he'd received the bills from a co-worker while overseas in Spain and didn't know they were counterfeit.

Officers were dispatched at 6:10 p.m. to 421 Lewis St. for a property damage complaint. The caller reported his brother's vehicle window had been broken sometime between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The damage was the size of a softball. Shattered glass littered the inside of the 2000 Ford Econoline E350, but there was no object inside. The estimated cost to repair it was \$400.

Tuesday, June 25

Police were dispatched at 11:25 a.m. to 214 N. Man St. #G for renters living in a commercial building and seen walking in the building without a shirt on, shaving in the bathroom and cooking in the building. The building's owner said she'd rented a room to a man and his son, but was evicting them for sleeping there. They had converted two rooms into bedrooms and were being evicted the next day. A 79-year-old man answered the door and said he and his stepson work 24/7 on roofing jobs and use the room to sleep sometimes. He eventually admitted to living in the room and said he wouldn't leave until he found another place to stay. The city inspector confirmed a code violation had taken place, which doesn't require a five-day eviction notice. Police learned the man is wanted in multiple states for theft, fraud and swindling. The men were given until July 5 to vacate the premises.

At 3:41 p.m., a resident at 1401 River Ridge Road reported being scammed out of \$3,800. She said while looking for temporary jobs she received a text from a company calling itself ADA about a digital marketing job. She passed the training and received \$800. She was asked to then put money on CashApp and Bitcoin and invest in Bitcoin. She said she couldn't make money without giving them money and the trainer guided her to make commissions and jobs. She had given them almost \$4,000 and they were asking for another \$8,000. She was told to report the scam to IC3.gov and block the contacts.

At 9:18 p.m., police were dispatched to a home in the 400 block of South Wasson Lane for a 2- or 3-year-old child found alone. Two adults found the child walking on the street alone. The child, who spoke only Spanish, told officers he woke up and found his dad gone. He didn't know his parents' names. While police were trying to figure

out where the child lived, his mother and uncle pulled up in a vehicle. They told officers they'd run to the store for "10 or 15 minutes" while the child was asleep. When they returned, he was gone. The child had been wandering for about 40 minutes. The report was forwarded to Pierce County Human Services.

Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash at 1:59 p.m. at Paulson Road and Main Street between a 2013 Kia Soul, driven by a **16-year-old River Falls juvenile** and a 2003 Peterbilt 379 semi, driven by **John Lawrence Broking**, 29, Cohasset, Minn. Broking was turning onto Main Street from Paulson Road from the left turn lane in order to complete the turn when the juvenile sneaked up on his right side, at which point he struck her. The Kia had functional damage while the semi had minor damage. Broking reported no injuries while the juvenile reported suspected minor injuries. She was not transported. Both were warned for not driving safely.

Wednesday, June 26

Police were called at 8:09 p.m. to Hoffman Park (547 Hanson Drive) where a 5-year-old boy had been bitten by a dog. The child had stepped on the dog, who then bit him. The dog was up-to-date on its vaccinations and given quarantine paperwork. The child did not need medical attention.

Officers were dispatched at 7:19 p.m. to 218 W. Charlotte St. for vehicle tampering complaint. When police arrived, they found a 2005 Buick Terraza with two chairs behind it. No one was around. The vehicle owner, by phone, gave permission to police to check the vehicle. Inside they found an empty Natural Ice. Police received photos of **Seth W. Harrison**, 25, Hometown, near the vehicle with the hood open and changing clothes. The vehicle's owner said Harrison is her son, but he doesn't have permission to be in the vehicle. She had allowed him to keep some things in it but had parked the vehicle due to its inoperable brakes. Police manually locked the vehicle and left. The next day, the owner told police the rear passenger window had been pried open and no longer shut. She also found a bag of Harrison's belongings in the car. She didn't know where he was staying; he had been kicked out of a sober living house on Maple Street for stealing and not following the rules. Police referred charges of criminal damage to property, entry into locked vehicle, misdemeanor bail jumping and felony bail jumping to the district attorney's office.

Thursday, June 27

Police conducted a traffic stop at 3:16 a.m. at Bartosh Lane and Foster Street after seeing a vehicle filled with juveniles after hours in Glen Park. The vehicle contained six juveniles, most of whom who had been drinking and/or smoking marijuana. Two juveniles were riding in the truck bed. One 17-year-old River Falls male juvenile was cited \$439 for underage drinking/possession (third). Another 17-year-old River Falls juvenile male was cited \$187 for underage drinking/possession. A 16-year-old River Falls male juvenile was cited \$187 for possess drug paraphernalia and \$187 for underage drinking/possession. Another 16-year-old River Falls juvenile male was cited \$313 for underage drinking/possession. A 16-year-old River Falls juvenile female was cited \$187 for underage drinking/possession. One juvenile female was not cited. The first 17-year-old male juvenile was extremely disrespectful during the entire contact and screamed at officers even after his mother arrived. All were released to their parents. In the truck, police found a nicotine vape and a case of Busch Light. In the truck bed, officers located a can of beer, a nicotine vape, two empty beer cans, a glass bong, a gas mask bong and a baggie of marijuana.

At 7:36 a.m., a River Falls resident reported losing his wallet sometime near 705 N. Main St. on June 26. Someone had attempted to use his card at a Brooklyn Park, Minn., Burger King later that night, but he had already cancelled his cards.

Police responded to a theft complaint at 12:45 p.m. at Kwik Trip (1238 N. Main St.) A woman had been seen routinely on surveillance video wearing a Minnesota Department

of Corrections shirt stealing cans of White Claw and other items for the past year. For example, at 4:44 p.m. June 22, the woman is seen concealing a can in her purse, taking a package of French rolls from a shelf, dispensing a fountain drink and paying for none of it. The suspect was identified as **Diana Jean Salfer**, 52, River Falls. She told officers she sometimes forgets to pay for things. She was cited \$187 for retail theft - intentionally conceal and trespassed from Kwik Trip stores.

Officers were dispatched at 3:17 p.m. to 122 Spring St. for a property damage complaint. A man doing construction work across the street reported his car had been egged. Another vehicle had been egged there on Monday. A resident at the apartment building said people parking in residents' spaces is an ongoing issue. On May 11, another vehicle had been egged and painted when parked there.

Police were called at 8:24 p.m. to 1450 S. Wasson Lane for two juvenile boys vandalizing property. The boys had ripped down a privacy fence at #105 and the owner followed the boys to Red Cedar Estates. Two boys, ages 13 and 15, were spoken to about the fence. One had body slammed it and ripped boards off, according to video. Charges of criminal damage to property, trespass to land and disorderly conduct were referred to juvenile court.

Friday, June 28

At 11:05 a.m., a man found his elderly mother deceased in bed at 1609 W. Maple St. She had a history of high blood pressure, back pain and had been complaining of stomach pain. The body was released to the funeral home.

At 1:30 p.m., a Cambridge Place resident reported unauthorized transactions for DoorDash and Expedia on one of her bank accounts. Her son had taken her to the bank to cancel the debit card associated with the account. She thought she might have lent it to her granddaughter when she was visiting in May but couldn't remember if she'd gotten it back. The granddaughter has a history of substance abuse and is in and out of treatment.

Saturday, June 29

While conducting routine patrol at 3:13 a.m., police saw a large group of people yelling and pushing each other in the alley behind Emma's Bar (222 S. Main St.) Many witnesses told officers that **Alexander John Magnuson**, 28, River Falls, was intoxicated and trying to start fights with different groups of people all night. He even told officers he'd been "out of line." Officers on patrol throughout the evening had seen him in verbal altercations with a few patrons outside, but no one had flagged down police. He was cited \$187 for disorderly conduct and given a courtesy ride home.

At 6:10 a.m., police found a vehicle listed as stolen from Ellsworth in the parking lot at 100 Spring St. The vehicle, belonging to **Deborah K. Bjork**, 72, Ellsworth, was towed to the impound lot. Bjork told officers the suspect had both sets of keys.

RFPD

from Page 9

Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 10:41 a.m. at Union and Fourth streets between a 2014 Ford Focus, driven by **Alex Conrad DeGroot**, 34, River Falls, and a 2021 Toyota Camry, driven by **Andrea Nicole Andazola**, 36, River Falls. DeGroot was traveling westbound on Union Street while Andazola was backing out of a driveway. The vehicles collided in the roadway. Both drivers accused the other of hitting them. The Focus was towed due to disabling damage while the Camry had functional damage. No injuries were reported. Andazola was cited for operating a motor vehicle without insurance.

At 6:30 p.m., a 20-year-old man reported that while at Glen Park, a group of four to five people around the age of 20 called him over beneath the Swinging Bridge and told him they had a bomb. A man pulled out a device that looked like a bowling ball with wires and electronic devices taped to it. He felt uncomfortable and

He didn't believe the bomb was real but didn't know for certain. When police responded, they saw a juvenile female with a bong and a juvenile writing with a Sharpie on the bridge pillars. Another had a can of Smirnoff. The three juveniles, all age 16, came up onto the bridge when ordered to by police. Inside the girl's backpack police located marijuana. One boy had hemp wrappers and a vape on his person. The other had a vape and the Smirnoff can. All items were seized and destroyed. No bomb was found, but the juvenile males were cited \$98.80 for underage drinking/possession. The boy with the Sharpie was cited \$250 for criminal damage to property. The girl was cited \$98.80 for possess drug paraphernalia and \$98.80 for possession of THC. The parents were called to pick up their kids.

Officers were notified at 8:17 p.m. that a 2018 Kia Sorento, driven by **Juliet Ann Sokol Hauk**, 41, River Falls, struck a deer on Highway 35 just north of Quarry Road. The vehicle had disabling damage. No injuries were reported.

Police were asked to respond at 8:42 p.m. to Family Fresh (303 S. Main St.) for suspicious activity and a possible altercation. An anonymous complainant said a group of males were trying to prevent another male from breaking into his own car. A second caller reported a male broke a vehicle window and seemed unstable. They said he was sitting in the passenger seat of the car. As officers approached the Mazda 6 sedan, they saw a man sleeping in the passenger seat. There was blood on the outside of the vehicle and the rear driver's side window was shattered. A large rock was inside and one was outside the car. The rear passenger door handle had been ripped off and was on the ground. The windshield was damaged and inside police could see handgun and AR-15 magazines and alcohol containers. Police woke the man up, who

was identified as **David Beach Candee**, 35, Ellsworth. He told officers he was in his buddy's car, but didn't break into it. He thought he was in Hudson. Officers also found a loaded handgun in the glove box. Police called the vehicle's owner, **Jesse David O'Neil**, 29, Ellsworth, who said he'd walked away to avoid an altercation with Candee, who has broken his vehicle windows several times. A witness said the men had been arguing around 8:05 p.m. after walking out of Lazy River. Candee was arrested for criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct and misdemeanor bail jumping and transported to Pierce County Jail. He registered a .226 BAC.

At 9:39 p.m., a woman called 911 from River Falls Area Hospital (1629 E. Division St.) requesting to be transported to Regions Hospital in St. Paul. She said she couldn't breathe and her hands were numb. She also told EMS that she drank six beers in an attempt to breathe better, which violated her absolute sobriety bail bond conditions. Police located **Mary Elizabeth Melstrom**, 47, River Falls, in the waiting area. She smelled of intoxicants and said she'd been sick for two years. When police told her to stand up she refused and resisted. She was arrested for misdemeanor obstructing an officer. After obtaining medical clearance, officers took her to St. Croix County Jail.

Sunday, June 30

While on patrol at 12:24 a.m., officers saw men fighting in front of Emma's (222 S. Main St.) Police broke up the fight and found one man bleeding from his face. After multiple witness interviews, officers learned **Jesse David O'Neil**, 29, Ellsworth, and **Roman John Devine**, 29, Plymouth, Minn., had been kicked out of Emma's for being too intoxicated. Devine also apparently made anti-LGBTQ comments and was starting arguments. Once outside, a

woman followed them and told them to leave. Devine punched her and swung her around by her hair, at which point two other men intervened. One man was knocked down twice and kicked in the face by O'Neil, resulting in a concussion and facial fractures. O'Neil and Devine were both arrested for disorderly conduct and battery and transported to Pierce County Jail. Devine was uncooperative the whole time and told officers he was fighting off the "faggots." Officers later referred a felony substantial battery charge for O'Neil after learning the extent of the victim's injuries.

Police responded at 6:42 p.m. to 1218 State St., a group home that specializes in caring for people with Prader-Willi Syndrome where a woman was out of control. She smashed a hole in the wall and was standing on a table when police arrived. She had slammed a chair into a window and ripped papers off the wall. The woman calmed down after talking to her mom on the phone. Police were there for about 35 minutes but we called back 10 minutes later when the woman became assaultive. She said she didn't want to live there and would continue to make problems. Officers contacted Pierce County Human Services who agreed to work with the woman's guardian on a plan.

Officers were dispatched at 8 p.m. to Glen Park (355 Park St.) for a welfare check on a man passed out next to the Swinging Bridge. He had a bottle of alcohol beside him. The man was identified as **Charles A. Regan**, 43, and he had been living at Kinnick Rehab. He registered a .290 BAC. He said he'd been out walking and drinking all night and slept in the park. He was cited for open intoxicants and taken back to Kinnick Rehab.

Drew David Kilpin, 22, River Falls, was arrested and cited \$187 for possession of THC and \$187 for possess drug

paraphernalia after a traffic stop for operating without headlights at 10:41 p.m. at 222 N. Main St. The vehicle smelled of marijuana and police saw smoking device on the seat along with a grinder. In the car officers located a Mason jar of marijuana, a bag of marijuana, another grinder and a THC vape. He was booked and released.

Monday, July 1

Officers responded at 4:30 p.m. to Holiday (302 S. Main St.) for a theft complaint. A man wearing a red T-shirt and grey sweatpants took a bottle of grape juice, started drinking it, then set it down, went into the bathroom for awhile, came out and walked out with two sandwiches. The stolen items totaled \$15.06. Police identified the man thanks to a license plate. **Benito Yanez**, 75, River Falls, was cited for retail theft - intentionally take.

Tuesday, July 2

At 10:41 a.m., a resident requested to speak to police in the station lobby. The 65-year-old truck driver said he had asked his stepdaughter to pay his bills and purchase some things with checks while he was on the road. He learned she had used \$60,000 to pay for her own personal items between Jan. 1, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023. She agreed to pay him back, but has only paid him back \$200 over the past 10 months. The man talked options over with the officer, who attempted to reach the stepdaughter without success. The case is open.

At 4:30 p.m., a resident at 408 N. Grove St. told police she and her husband tried to buy a hot tub on Facebook Marketplace for \$1,000. She agreed to pay the seller a \$150 down payment through Venmo. They were supposed to pay the rest of the money upon pick up at an Apple Valley, Minn. address. The homeowner there did not have a hot tub for sale. Attempts to reach the seller were unsuccessful.

Inti Cusi Contento Lapo, 30, River Falls, was arrested and cited \$250 for operating while revoked (alcohol related) and \$150 for ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order after a traffic stop at 8:12 p.m. at Division and Fourth streets.

Wednesday, July 3

Police were notified at 4:15 p.m. that a 2017 Toyota Sienna, driven by **Lena Marie Aumann**, 58, Hudson, had struck a deer on Highway 35 four-tenths of a mile north of Highway 65. The vehicle had functional damage. No injuries were reported.

At 5:56 p.m., a Woodbury, Minn., woman contacted police to let them know of an alleged physical altercation that had taken place June 30 at 177 Bobwhite St. She said her ex-husband and their four children were at his fiancée's home when he and the fiancée got into a fight. The woman said her children told her they and their father were kicked out in the middle of the kids taking a bath and that the fiancée screamed at them and pushed one child into the wall. The information was documented.

Thursday, July 4

Abigail Joan Rohl, 22, Roberts, was arrested and cited \$986 for OWI after a traffic stop at 12:08 a.m. at Main and Pine streets. A caller reported seeing Rohl's vehicle go into the ditch twice on Highway 65 near the Larson Barn. When he turned around to see if they needed help, the driver took off toward town with fluids leaking from the car. When police pulled Rohl over, there was front end damage to the vehicle and it looked like she may have hit her head on the windshield due to her bleeding. Both she and the passenger denied going off the road. Rohl smelled heavily of intoxicants and after completing field sobriety tests, was taken to River Falls Area Hospital to be evaluated. There they took a blood draw and police in-

formed her of her arrest. She was released to her mother. Her vehicle was towed to the impound lot.

Friday, July 5

Police responded to an open 911 call at 10:39 p.m. at 1014 Sunset Lane. They could hear an intoxicated woman screaming and knocking on the home's door. When they arrived, **Michelle Marie Simpson**, 49, River Falls, was being told to leave by the resident. Simpson said she'd driven to her friend's house to drop off photos. She said she'd had "like four beers" that day. The resident said Simpson had dropped off the pictures and flipped her off because she was angry she hadn't answered her phone. After performing field sobriety tests, officers arrested and cited Simpson \$986 for OWI. She was taken to the hospital for a blood draw, then released to her sister. She admitted to taking medication that could amplify the effects of alcohol.

Saturday, July 6

At 3:35 a.m., a UWRF officer located a vehicle parked in the middle of Main Street near the Falcon Center. Inside, a person was sleeping with the vehicle in drive. Officers blocked the vehicle in for safety and tried for several minutes to wake the driver. When she woke up, she took her foot off the brake and the vehicle rolled forward into the police squad bumper. She smelled heavily of marijuana and alcohol. Officers identified her as **Faith Anne Butler**, 21, River Falls. She admitted to drinking vodka lemonades. After performing field sobriety tests and registering a .14 BAC, Butler was arrested and cited \$187 for possession of THC, \$986 for operating with PAC and \$986 for OWI. Police confiscated marijuana, THC gummiacs and a glass pipe from her vehicle. She was booked and released to a sober person.

COMMUNITY Calendar

Every Tuesday

Among Friends, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 110 S. Third St., River Falls. A social respite program serving seniors residing in Pierce and St. Croix counties who are facing memory changes or physical limitations. Trained staff supervise socializing and fun, engaging activities in a safe environment. Learn more at amongfriendsrf.com or 715-293-2561.

Thursday, Aug. 1

Craft Day, 1-4 p.m., Elmwood Public Library (111 N. Main St.) A new craft each week! Paint, glue, recycled and upcycled materials, and budding artists at work.

Summer Reading Finale, 4-5 p.m., River Falls Public Library (140 Union St.) For kids pre-school age and grades K-5, celebrate outside with chalk and treats,

Baron of Bubbles and a balloon twister.

Summer Fun Series, 5-7 p.m., East End Park, Ellsworth. Join the Ellsworth Chamber and several generous community organizations and businesses for a fun evening of entertainment and activities! From live music to family friendly activities to art-in-the-park and themed events, watch for details weekly. Visit the Ellsworth Farmers Market for locally grown produce, baked goods and crafts.

River Falls Social Club Cribbage, 6-8 p.m., Nutty Squirrel (110 S. Main St., River Falls). RFSC provides new and established residents of the River Falls region with a means of meeting each other, sharing similar interests, and enjoying the special people and places of this community and the sur-

rounding area.

Friday, Aug. 2

Teen After Hours & Silent Disco, 4-5 p.m., River Falls Public Library (140 Union St.) For teens grades 6-12, the library will be closed to the public. Teens can enjoy dancing, food and more. Register until July 31.

Friday, Aug. 2-Sunday, Aug. 4

Trimbelle Days, Gaslite Bar & Grill (W8945 Highway 10, Ellsworth). Co-sponsored by Quinn Motors of Ellsworth. Live music, tractor pull, UTV ride, and more.

Sunday, Aug. 3

Maiden Rock Party in the Park, 2-10 p.m., Maiden Rock Village Park. Rescheduled from June. Kids activities, food vendors and fireworks at dusk.

Sunday, Aug. 4

48th Annual Fly-in/Drive-in Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m. to noon, Red Wing Regional Airport (W7145 148th Ave., Bay City). EAA Chapter 1518 will host a breakfast featuring Sturdiwheat pancakes, S&S Sugarbush maple syrup, smoked sausages from Watkins, and milk from the Pierce County Dairy Promotion Committee. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 for kids ages 5-11 and free for those under 5.

PCHA Open House, noon to 4 p.m., Pierce County Historical Association (W6321 Main St., Bay City). Come research, view our local history displays, donate an item or tour the 1850s log cabin and learn about the family who built it.

Kinnickinnic Ice Cream Social, 1-5 p.m., Historic Kinnickinnic Church (1276 County Road J, River Falls). Ice cream, homemade pies and root beer floats will be

available, along with other beverages. Live music, socializing with neighbors and new friends. Proceeds will support the 150+-year-old church, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit Kinnickinnic Historical Association on Facebook for more information.

Monday, Aug. 5

Movie Day, 1 p.m., Elmwood Public Library (111 N. Main St.) A new kids movie each week! Join us for movies, popcorn and whenever possible, the book that inspired the movie!

Makers Market, 4-7 p.m., St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center (1091 Sutherland Ave., River Falls). Join us for the third free event. Support small businesses by purchasing food and products. Take time to socialize, eat and shop! Free samples and friendly vendors to meet!

Tuesday, Aug. 6

How to Develop and Effective Social Media Content Strategy, 1:30 p.m., St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center (1091 Sutherland Ave., River Falls). Learn how to engage with your audience by understanding them, creating authentic relevant content that generates meaningful interactions, develop a content calendar and streamline collaboration. Presented by Amber Mitchell. Free event.

River Falls Social Club Get Together, 5-7 p.m., St. Croix Lanes (1153 St. Croix St., River Falls). RFSC provides new and established residents of the River Falls region with a means of meeting each other, sharing similar interests, and enjoying the special people and places of this community and the surrounding area.

Midway

from Page 1

two daughters, Mariah Way and Sierra Weiland. Way's great-grandfather Ed Larkey and his brothers started the five-generation family business in 1946.

"Within just my generation we have expanded," Way said. "We have a solidified route that we do in Wisconsin. We do mostly county fairs, and the state fairs of Minnesota and Texas. We were recruited by the Texas State Fair in Dallas. We take two major rides there. You have to keep up on the quality of the rides and quality of operation there."

Way, who is the company's manager, said Mr. Ed's has been coming to the Pierce County Fair for more than 20 years. The company employees between 75 and 85 people that help make sure the 25 rides, 12 games and 10 food stands run smoothly. They're on the fair circuit from May through the first week in November.

"We're at like 26 events (each summer) between festivals and firemen's picnics, state fairs," Way said. "In our off-season, we have a full-time maintenance shop. Every piece of equipment goes through our shop and is maintained and repainted if necessary."

Way said safety is Mr. Ed's utmost priority. They conduct inspections on each

ride daily and undergo inspections by the state and insurance companies.

"I wouldn't want someone else's kids on something that I wouldn't put my own kids on," Way said. "We have an excellent safety record in state fairs and Wisconsin."

Way said the industry has changed quite a bit over the years, especially in the workforce portion. While some of the maintenance employees work year-round, it can be tough to recruit for the seasonal portion.

"It's hard to recruit for our business as we work all summer," Way said. "We work weekends, holidays, we travel. It's hard for people to break free and be a part of our business."

For about eight years, the company has used the H-2B Visa Program. According to U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, the H-2B program allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs. Way said applicants are "thrown into buckets" with about 33,000 visas granted per year. Those selected work in the landscaping, forestry, hotel, restaurant, carnival and fishing industries, to name a few.

"Every year there's a need for about 145,000. What happens is everyone submits their paperwork and at the end of December, they put the businesses in these



This year's new ride at the Pierce County Fair is the 60-foot pendulum called the Viper. It was built in the Netherlands and shipped to the United States by ship. Contributed photo

buckets. Bucket A, yes, B, C, maybe, and they may release additional supplemental workers," Way said. "It's definitely a struggle. It's a very costly program. The wages are set by the federal government, and we have to send reports to the Department of Labor. We pay the highest prevailing wage per hour at each location that we go to."

Way said the rides have changed over the years as well. Since her Grandpa's time, the rides provide more thrills but are also more expensive. Major rides cost up to \$1 million to purchase, while kiddie rides are around \$250,000. The Viper, the new ride debuting at this year's

fair, was \$1 million. The 60-foot pendulum ride provides spinning and lots of thrills.

"It has lots of height," Way said. "It came from the Netherlands and it took a month to get here by boat."

Way said they were supposed to get it in 2026, but they traded with a company in Canada.

"We have to make these purchases way in advance because the companies are booked so far in advance, thanks to lack of labor and the time to get parts," Way said.

Way admitted she's partial to the Air Max ride, because she helps set it up and tear it down. She also loves the classic Ferris wheel, the "gentle giant" that stands 70



The Rockstar guitar ride has been a favorite at the Pierce County Fair for many years. Screams of glee can be heard all of over the Midway when this ride is in motion. Contributed photo

feet high. She believes it's important to educate the public on how long the rides take to set up, how expensive they are to purchase and maintain and the hardships their business faces that are unique to them. She knows people complain sometimes of ride ticket prices, but running a safe and fun carnival is not cheap.

"I think the thing that gives us the most joy is all the smiles and memories that we get to help make at

every single place we get to go to," Way said. "And to see how much our company has grown, to keep carrying on the family name and business. I couldn't see myself doing anything else. We are carrying on the family legacy and business."

To learn more about Mr. Ed's Magical Midway, visit mredsmidway.com to purchase ride tickets in advance, visit <https://www.co.pierce.wi.us/departments/fair/index.php>

PRESCOTT Area News

Prescott Council honors softball team's state championship

City Council dissolves city's Tree Board

By Danielle Boos

PRESCOTT – On behalf of the Prescott City Council, Mayor Robert Daugherty commended the Prescott High School girls softball team for “the hard work, dedication, sportsmanship, talent and exceptional team chemistry” which helped the student athletes earn their first Division 3 state championship. He said that by winning, the team has honored the City of Prescott and made a large impact on their school and community because of their dedication and hard work and are role models for the future of the girls’ softball program.

“The Council wishes them all success in their future endeavors,” Daugherty ended.

“Good job,” commented Alderperson Dar Hintz as the rest of the council cheered and applauded following Mayor Daugherty’s reading of the proclamation.

The Prescott City Council



Dave Peterson of Prescott shared his concerns regarding the use of bicycles on the Broad Street sidewalk. Photo courtesy of Prescott Community Television

removed the city’s Tree Board from Ordinance 30-9 and dissolved it at the July 22 meeting. City Administrator Matt Wolf informed council members that the Parks and Public Works Committee recommended to dissolve the

Tree Board.

“Our tree board, as far as we can tell, only met once and that was back in 2014 so it’s kind of an obsolete committee,” he said.

He further explained that the Parks and Public Works Committee already covers the same work.

The council also changed the wording in Ordinance 6-24 to remove “tree board” and add city staff or public works in its place.

“They take care of removing predominately most of our trees in our parks and our right of way,” stated Wolf.

The council also added that if the city requires a private property owner to remove a dead and unsafe tree and the property owners want to appeal, then they would go before the Parks and Public Works Committee.

During public comment, Dave Peterson, a Pearl Street resident, addressed the use of bicycles on the sidewalk

on Broad Street. Alderperson Mike Gerke told Peterson that it was discussed at the Health and Safety Committee meeting on July 17 to continue to allow bicycles on the sidewalks if the tires are 24” or less as per the current city code.

“I’m wondering if we can put up a sign because evidently a lot of people don’t know the rules and it’s not the kids. It’s these people that appear to be 50 years old and they’re going too fast and there’s people out there,” Peterson said.

Hintz asked Peterson if he was talking about all the Prescott streets or just Broad Street.

Peterson confirmed that it was Broad Street.

“And I don’t care if kids ride their bikes in their neighborhood on the sidewalk. I’m talking about people that are to say at least old enough to know better. They’re going too fast, they’re not looking out for people,” he added.



Mayor Robert Daugherty (left) presented Prescott Girls Softball Coach Nick Johnson with a letter of commendation from the Prescott City Council for earning their first Division 3 State Championship. Photo courtesy of City of Prescott

MN woman nabbed in check cashing scheme

Staff report

A Minneapolis woman convicted of felony forgery in Pierce County is suspected to be part of a check cashing theft ring in the Twin Cities metro area.

Catherine Joy Wertman, 27, was convicted of felony forgery – uttering July 29 in Pierce County Circuit Court, sentenced to three years of probation, fined \$518 and ordered to pay \$5,500 in restitution. After her plea/sentencing hearing, she was remanded into St. Croix County custody to face similar charges there.

According to the complaint:

At 1:38 p.m. Monday, May 13, a WESTconsin Credit



Catherine J. Wertman

Union employee at the Ellsworth location (385 W. Main St.) reported to Ellsworth police that a member had had her purse stolen and someone had cashed a check from her account totaling \$5,500. The pursue contained her state ID, debit cards, credit cards and a card with her account numbers written on it.

The employee said a wom-

an entered the Ellsworth branch May 8 and cashed a check written to the victim in the amount of \$5,500. The check was drawn out of an Old National Bank account from another victim’s account. Leah said the woman (identifying herself as the first victim) cashed the check and was in possession of her identification at the time.

A WESTconsin Credit Union statement given to police outlined the activity at the Ellsworth branch and other WESTconsin Credit Union branches with the same woman attempting to cash and cashing checks.

The employee said Prescott police arrested the suspect at the Prescott branch

location. The employee also provided a copy of the check that was passed, photos of the female suspect and a receipt of the transaction. The receipt indicates the transaction took place at 4:33 p.m. May 8.

Police received employee statements from other affected branches, surveillance images of the suspect and copies of the checks. The affected WESTconsin Credit Union branches at the time of the complaint were Ellsworth, Hudson, Baldwin and Prescott.

Police later learned from Menomonie police that the victim’s car was broken into and her purse stolen from her car. When Prescott police arrested Wertman, she had the

victim’s ID.

A Prescott investigator said several agencies were investigating Wertman as being part of an organized ring, committing thefts and passing checks. People and organizations located around the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area have largely been affected.

The second victim told police her checks and other property were stolen from her vehicle while at a park. She stated she has had several calls from other law enforcement agencies and officers about her checks being passed. She told officers the report of the theft was made to Three Rivers Park Police Department. Officers went to Pierce County Jail and attempted to speak

to Wertman, who was still in custody after being arrested by Prescott PD. Wertman refused to speak to the officer. Police collected the clothes Wertman had been wearing at the time of her arrest, which matched photos taken of her at the Ellsworth bank location. Wertman was wearing the same hat and shirt while at the Hudson and Baldwin branches as well.

In St. Croix County, Wertman is facing felony misappropriate ID info – obtain money, represent another’s license as own and two felony forgery – uttering charges. A preliminary hearing is set for 9:30 a.m. Aug. 9.

ELLSWORTH Area News

Local non-profits receive Pierce Pepin Cares Grants

ELLSWORTH –Three local non-profits received third-quarter grants from Pierce Pepin Cares, the charitable foundation of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS). The Pierce Pepin Cares board approved \$5,000 in grants to River Valley Charities, Staying Put, Inc., and the Kinne-Englehart American Legion Auxiliary Unit #204.

Pierce Pepin Cares is funded by PPCS members who generously round up their monthly energy bills to the nearest dollar through Operation Round Up® and direct donations.

River Valley Charities received a \$2,000 grant to support its food voucher program for families in need throughout Pierce County. The vouchers enable families to purchase fresh produce, eggs, and milk at local grocery stores, promoting access to nutritious food and supporting childhood development and academic performance.

Staying Put, Inc. plans to use its \$2,000 grant to purchase new laptop computers, desktop monitors, and connectivity equipment. These resources will enhance their



Barb Bee (left), PPCS senior accountant, presented a \$2,000 grant from Pierce Pepin Cares to Andy Johnson, executive director of River Valley Charities, to support their food voucher program for families in need. Photo courtesy of PPCS

capacity to serve the Spring Valley and Elmwood school districts, providing essential services and activities for seniors and adults with disabilities in rural areas and improving their quality of life.

The Kinne-Englehart American Legion Auxiliary Unit #204 received its \$1,000 grant to provide financial assistance to veterans in Pierce County. The funds will support veterans by providing gift cards for gas, food, and household needs through the County Veteran Service Office, helping to meet essential needs.

“PPCS members who participate in Operation Round Up make these grants possible,” said PPCS president and CEO Nate Boettcher. “Individually, members contribute just a few cents each month, but collectively, these donations provide significant support to local non-profits. We are grateful that over 70 percent of our members support our community by participating in Operation Round Up.”

Submitted by Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services

Ellsworth Senior Center activities

The Ellsworth Senior Center would like to invite all senior citizens ages 50 and greater to the following events to be held at the senior center:

Pool Players meet every Monday and Friday from 1-3 p.m.

Celebrating Seniors Gathering will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 31. Did you know that what’s good for your heart is also good for your brain? Lifestyle factors that we can modify and control play a large part in reducing our risk for cognitive changes as we age. Join Amy Luther, Dementia Care Specialist from the ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) of Pierce County as she shares information about improving brain health, reducing risk for cognitive decline, and pursuing a well-rounded approach to healthier living.

Euchre Card Players will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8 and 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22. Beginners are welcome

and encouraged to come.

Discovering Together Tuesday will be held at 11 a.m. Aug. 13 with traveler and author, Gail Shore. Shore’s solo trips have taken her through five decades and nearly 100 countries, including destinations as intriguing and unfamiliar as North Korea, Iran, the Amazon, and even Timbuktu. Her new book, “Opening My Cultural Lens,” is the account of her lifetime on the road—an illuminating exploration of the traditions, rituals, and cultures of some of the world’s most remote and fascinating populations. Shore will join us for a book signing and interactive discussion about the places she’s been, the people she’s met and the lessons she’s learned. A luncheon sponsored by the Ellsworth Senior Center and Friends of the Ellsworth Public Library will follow the program.

Our **Balanced Wellness Presentation with CJ**

Young will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21 where she will discuss “Maximizing Everyday Mobility - ABC’s of ADL’s.” What are ADL’s? They are Activities of Daily Living. Come and learn ways to maintain our independence and vitality. We will be covering the importance of the roles of fast and slow twitch muscles, as well as the significance of planes of movement. CJ will bring along her Tanita computer to read our personal Body Composition Readings. We will also be doing some group exercises to help maintain our balance and strength.

Unless otherwise stated, all events are at the Ellsworth Senior Center, located in the basement of the old Ellsworth Public Library (312 W. Main St.) Please park in the back parking lot and enter through the back door.

Submitted by Activities Director Janelle Braund



ELLSWORTH

Farmers Market

CROSSCUT STREET
NEXT TO EAST END PARK

We have fresh produce, canned goods, crafts, food vendors and events in the park provided through the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce

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St. Paul’s UCC : **UNTIL SEPTEMBER 26**
Closed Aug. 8 for the Pierce Co. Fair

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RIVER FALLS Area News

Council hears updates on housing, water and business innovation

By Andrew Harrington

The River Falls City Council heard a trio of presentations, one from the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center, one on housing and the final on water/wastewater at the July 23 meeting.

Director of the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center, Sheri Marnell, said the center exists to work with small businesses to help with entrepreneurship and innovation.

With data from the US Small Business Association showing just a third of startups lasting 10 years, the innovation center is determined to keep startups alive. Of 23 businesses that have graduated from the innovation center, 20 are still in business.

Statistics from the center's members include retaining 159 jobs, adding 120 jobs and investing \$34 million in capital.

River Falls Community Development Director

Amy Peterson said in a 2018 study the city learned they had a projected total housing need of over 2,000 units. This need was down to over 1,700 during a 2022 update. The 2022 update showed an increase in need for senior housing. Some of the demand has been addressed since the original study and the update, but the need in the city is still there.

Projects that helped address the need include Depot/City Station, Milltown, 1300 Residences, The Sycamore, Lake George Lofts and The Uplands, which account for about 450 units.

The presentation showed units needed by 2030, with senior housing at the top, still needing 693 units, multi-family for rent housing in need of 317 units, single-family housing in need of 306 units and multi-family for sale housing in need of 135 units.

River Falls Utility Director Kevin Westhuis and City Engineer Todd Nickleski discussed a handful of things

going on in the city involving wastewater and groundwater.

The wastewater treatment plant site dryer project is 4-6 weeks away from having a three-story building on site.

A groundwater availability study found that in the event of a 40-year drought, River Falls would still have a surplus of about one billion gallons of groundwater per year.

Westhuis said they did a sample at every well in town for the EPA and three rounds of testing for the DNR, and no Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were detected.

"We have to feel very fortunate about that," Westhuis said.

Fire hydrant caps are now being painted based on how much water can flow out of them.

City compost site

The city's compost site was the topic of discussion for Town of Clifton resident Dana Linscott's public comment for the second week in

a row. During the administrator's report, City Administrator Scot Simpson fact checked some of the points that have been brought to the table at the two meetings.

Linscott was asked for the yard waste site to be moved for a multitude of reasons, and claims to be willing to help the city through the process. Linscott's reasons include the risk of dangerous pollutants eventually washing into the Kinnickinnic River and biotoxins harming nearby residents. Linscott said there are no laws or regulations that prevent the council from discussing the issue and asked them to sit down and have a conversation.

"I want to be careful about rebutting public comments, but I think we've seen repeated inaccurate statements from at least one member of the public," Simpson said. "The compost site is licensed. It's inspected by the state. We've recently had two inspections, and no violations were noted. That site

does have stormwater management active on the site. It's not true that the water goes directly to the Kinni."

Water Wells

The council heard the first reading of changes to the municipal code covering water wells. The additions to the ordinance are as follows:

A permit may be granted to existing well owners for the use of non-potable water only; the non-potable water system must be separate from the potable water system connected to the municipal water supply

Well permits will be issued in April of the renewal year

The private well must not be capable of producing more than 100,000 gallons per day so as to not be classified as a high-capacity well under Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR812.09

A private well may not negatively impact quality or quantity of groundwater available to the City of River Falls municipal wells

Well construction reports shall be provided for each private well

Other business

Approved the change of the Plan Commission makeup from including the chairperson of the Park Board to adding another citizen seat instead. Multiple city officials said this change is because it becomes difficult to fill board spots if the members become automatically tied to a second board seat's responsibilities.

Approved a joint submission of an Economic Development Administration public works application. The resolution allows the city to jointly apply for a grant that would provide necessary funds to expand the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center.

Approved the submitting of an application to the Wisconsin Community Investment grant program for Bodhi Studios. The grant would go toward renovations.

UWRF faculty member, students lauded for research efforts

WiSys award recognizes work to develop multiple food products

RIVER FALLS – A University of Wisconsin-River Falls faculty member and five of her students are being recognized for their creative, award-winning research that has led to a pending patent for a tasty food product they created.

Grace Lewis, assistant professor of animal and food science, and students Yihong Deng, Ashley Gruman, Anna Lokken, Katherine Petersen, and Rafael Larosiliere received the Carl E. Gulbrandsen Innovator of the Year Award during the WiSys SPARK Symposium at UW-Superior on Thursday. The award is given annually by WiSys to Universities of Wisconsin faculty, staff and students who have made exemplary contributions as innovators. It is named for the former managing director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation who supported WiSys.

Lewis and her students placed first at the Dairy Management Inc. New Product Competition in July 2023 for developing RootCurd, a ginger-coagulated dairy product based on an ancient Chinese recipe that is 89% dairy and is designed to ease consumers' anxiety. RootCurd took many hours to develop and lots of trial and error to turn into its end product.

RootCurd contains 20 grams of dairy protein per serving. Ginger provides the product with its slightly spicy flavor; lavender helps



UW-River Falls students, from left, Rafael Larosiliere, Anna Lokken, Kate Petersen, Yihong Deng, and Ashley Gruman took first place in a national contest last summer by developing RootCurd, a dairy-based product aimed at helping ease people's anxiety. On Thursday, the students and Grace Lewis, assistant professor of animal and food science, were recognized for their efforts with the Carl E. Gulbrandsen Innovator of the Year Award granted by WiSys. Contributed photo

reduce stress.

"I'm really proud of my students for working so hard to create a high-quality product," Lewis said. "Their effort shows that high-level research and hard work can make a positive impact on the dairy industry."

Lewis also is being recognized by WiSys for other research efforts. She has a pending patent for her work in conjunction with UW-Madison in which milk fat is used as intravenous nutrition for people who can't digest foods normally. Another of her projects that uses milk protein to enable better absorption of medicine and foods by humans has re-

ceived accolades and could be adopted by the food and pharmaceutical sectors.

Lewis began work at UW-River Falls in 2021. Since then she has received numerous accolades and awards, including second prize for the prestigious IDF Professor Pavel Jelen Early Career Scientist Prize in 2023, funding for her work in the university's Dairy Innovation Hub, and a WiSys Ignite Grant for 2023-24.

When she was first contacted by WiSys officials about the Carl E. Gulbrandsen Innovator of the Year Award, Lewis figured the organization was asking her to present again at its SPARK



WiSys President Arjun Sanga presents Grace Lewis, assistant professor of animal and food science at UW-River Falls, with the Carl E. Gulbrandsen Innovator of the Year Award during a ceremony Thursday at UW-Superior. The award honors the research efforts of Lewis and five of her students. Contributed photo

Symposium, which she has done in the past.

"Then they told me that me and my students were being honored with this (Gulbrandsen) award," Lewis said. "I was surprised in a good way. I am very, very thankful."

Lewis' students were surprised and honored as well by the award saying the acknowledgement for their hard work is gratifying.

"I felt a lot of pride for myself, my teammates and Dr. Lewis," said Petersen, of Clear Lake, who graduated with a food science and technology degree in May 2023 and works in research, development and application for the food company Kerry Group. "It really means a lot

to all of us to get this recognition."

As Anna Lokken and her classmates began research on RootCurd, they had no idea how the effort would develop and that their work would lead to winning a national competition and a pending patent.

"When we started this project, I don't think any of us thought it would take off the way it did," said Lokken, of Litchfield, Minn., who graduated in December 2023 with a food science and technology degree and now works as a research and regulatory affairs specialist at Anderson Chemical Company. "It's truly an honor to receive this award and continue to be recognized for all of the

work we put into RootCurd."

Developing RootCurd into a tasty food that could be sold on a commercial level was anything but easy, students said. They spent countless hours devising more than 40 different versions of the product, a process that included plenty of trial and error.

When they entered the Dairy Management Inc. New Product Competition last summer with RootCurd, students had low expectations. They were surprised and proud when they won the national competition. Motivated by that experience, Lewis and her students decided to seek a patent for RootCurd and partnered with WiSys to do so.

"This group of students was so motivated and so much fun to work with too," Lewis said. "I hope winning this award will show them how gifted they really are."

Petersen said she wasn't sure at first she wanted to be part of the RootCurd team. Now she is so thankful that she was.

"It has opened up so many opportunities and allowed for so many different experiences," she said. "You never know what can come from taking advantage of an opportunity that is presented to you."

Submitted by UW-River Falls

RFFD

from Page 9

opportunities allow him to give back to the community that he grew up in. Parents Fafani Weinzierl and Gerd Bens presented his badge. In addition, stepmom Soshia and stepdad Jason were in attendance to support him.

Ben Blanchard is from nearby Hudson and studied at UWRF, where he triple majored in political science, history, and music. He went to graduate school at the University of St. Thomas, where he graduated with a Master's in Software Engineering in 2017. Later that year he officially called River Falls home. Ben works as a Senior User Experience Designer

for Prime Therapeutics in Eagan, Minn. He was enticed to join the department after a lifestyle change and seeing the large banner over Main Street, in addition to conversing with former member Steven McCluskey. Blanchard's wife Kim and children Zoe and Alyse presented his badge.

Gavin Grams spent much of his childhood at the fire station in his hometown of Rio, Wis., with family, so much that he too joined as soon as he was able. In the fall of 2023, Grams enrolled at UWRF. He soon missed his second family of first responders and reached out to RFFD, where he was welcomed with open arms. Outside of firefighting, he works as a farmhand at a local feedlot. Grams was presented his



Nine new members take their oaths for the River Falls Fire Department on Monday, July 15. Photo courtesy of River Falls Fire

badge by his Chiefs Cernohous and Dodge.

Pat Grant grew up in River Falls, and always wanted to give back to the community that raised him. He keeps busy by helping on the family farm and training others on computer systems at HealthPartners laboratories. Celebrating Pat's accomplishments were his wife, Brook, and children, Vince and Maren.

Adam Gierl pursued his lifelong dream of being a firefighter. Gierl and his family moved to River Falls from Bloomington in 2015, so his wife could pursue higher education at UWRF.

In addition to his role as a firefighter, Gierl serves as the Director of Sales for Pearson in North America. His wife Amy presented his badge. Children Wyatt and Nolan were also present to witness the ceremony.

Rob Jaynes moved from Malibu, Calif. to River Falls roughly two years ago. Jaynes has always wanted to serve the community and felt that joining the fire department would be a great way of contributing. He also wanted to be around like-minded individuals. His wife, Christy Garcia presented his badge during the ceremony.

Kevin Lubich was born

and raised in River Falls. He is well known as a farmer and businessman in the area. Joining the fire department allowed him to become more embedded within the community he loves. Lubich's wife Jess badged him, with children Lily, Macy, Nash, and Oakley celebrating their father's accomplishment.

Jon Meyer is another local boy joining the fire department. Meyer has family history dating back to the 1870's -- even before the fire department had been established. He sought to find the brotherhood he had been missing since serving in the U.S. Army. He is cur-

rently working at the River Falls branch of Royal Credit Union, but actively seeking a full-time position in the fire service. His wife Meggan, along with children Jameson and Emmalise, joined in celebrating the moment.

Sage Rozycki comes to us from Minneapolis, Minn. After moving to River Falls in 2020 to attend UWRF, he fell in love with the area and chose to stay after graduating. Parents Paul and Brenda Rozycki presented his badge and collar brass.

Submitted by River Falls Fire Department



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SPORTS

and OUTDOORS



Claybreakers reach new heights with top-10 finish at nationals

By Andrew Harrington

The Ellsworth Claybreakers put on a show in the scorching heat at the National Trapshooting Championship in Michigan, with the team landing in eighth place out of 261 teams July 14. The squad also landed a pair of its competitors in the individual finals of the competition.

One of the coaches, Denton Achenbach, said this was the highest finish at nationals in the team's history, with a score of 481 out of 500 in the finals. The team's previous best fell at 36th place with a score of 468. This was the team's 10th nationals appearance.

Achenbach said he has taken many teams full of great shooters, but this team had lots of cohesion and were as mentally strong as any.

"It's about 60-70% mental, about 30% skill," Achenbach said. "So to find five kids that can shoot together and not affect one another when they're shooting poorly or shooting well and still be able to stay steady [is difficult]."

To make the finals, the squad needed to post a score of 463, and they shot a 471. The nationals team was made up of Kehan O'Neil, Chace Kressin, Carter Moldenhauer, Braydon Anderson, Ethan Hinrichs and first alternate



The Ellsworth Claybreakers took a squad consisting of Kehan O'Neil, Chace Kressin, Carter Moldenhauer, Braydon Anderson, Ethan Hinrichs and first alternate Landon Anderson to nationals. Photo courtesy of the Ellsworth Claybreakers

Landon Anderson.

Ellsworth left the rest of the Wisconsin teams in the dust, with the second highest Wisconsin team, Clear Lake, finishing 27th with a score of 473.

Individually, O'Neil and Anderson qualified for the individual finals after posting scores of 96 and 97 out of 100 to land in the top-400 of 1,800 competitors. In the finals, Anderson scored 95 to land in 225th place and O'Neil scored a 94 to take 273rd.

Achenbach said most members of the team are

either involved in another sport or work a manual labor job, and it paid off at nationals. With blistering heat over the weekend, many teams were exhausted by the time the finals came around. The Ellsworth squad felt much more rested.

"This time that heat helped, and one of the things that it helped us was because my kids, they practiced twice a week for the last month... and they come and practice after work," Achenbach said. "For them, it was hot Saturday, but they didn't even have to work. They were

just sitting around waiting to shoot."

O'Neil and Hinrichs were both seniors, and Achenbach said they have meant a lot to the team. Achenbach said they have been top shooters for the team in recent years.

"They're both phenomenal young men and they're great mentors," Achenbach said. "We're going to miss them a lot."

O'Neil put on a show during the team rounds, shooting 99 both times. While he did not post as high of scores in the individual rounds, he put the team in a



Kehan O'Neil and Braydon Anderson were the pair of Claybreakers who competed in the individual finals of nationals. Photo courtesy of the Ellsworth Claybreakers

position to fight for a top-10 spot. Hinrichs was the vocal leader for the team, keeping them energized the whole way.

"Kehan was kind of our silent leader, he just kind of got the job done," Achenbach said. "Ethan was kind

of our, 'Come on guys, you gotta believe.'"

Achenbach gave a major thank you to fellow coaches Jesse Thurmes, Chris Kilness, Lee Wright, Mike Moldenhauer and their sponsors.

Smith returns to Prescott as Activities Director

By Andrew Harrington

PRESCOTT — After a handful of years away, working in the School District of River Falls, Matt Smith is coming back to Prescott in the role of activities director.

Smith grew up in Prescott, eventually going on to work in the school district in roles including teacher's aide, teaching, coaching and was hired as the activities director and assistant principal for four years starting in 2017. Smith has spent the last three years working in River Falls, but the relationships built



Matt Smith

over the years brought the urge to come back. Smith said his family did not move during the stint at River Falls, so he has remained a part of the community the

whole way.

"I'm big with relationships, and kind of building those with people," Smith said. "We didn't move, my kids go here, my wife works here."

Smith said the Prescott community can expect transparency and hard work to maintain the strengths of the town's activities.

"Our athletic programs are obviously in a good place across the board," Smith said. "Also with our arts and our activities, also growing

See SMITH, Page 14



Crazy About Baseball gave thanks to mowers Mark Hawkins, Jim Schommer and Dan Erickson for volunteering many hours of their time. Photo courtesy of Chuck Block

Crazy About Baseball's volunteer-led system brings improvements to Firehall Field

By Andrew Harrington

PRESCOTT — Crazy About Baseball (CAB) has taken a different approach to field maintenance and upgrades, as they rely on volunteer work to keep Firehall Field in Prescott looking pristine.

The organization has been around for 26 years and signed a lease with the school district five years ago to run the field. The field was leased in what CAB President Chuck Block called a win-win, as the school district has limited resources and does not need to use them all up to maintain the field. In return, CAB can have the freedom to fundraise and make improvements as they see fit. CAB is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with goals that are quite simple, including maintaining and improving Firehall Field and providing for Prescott's many baseball/softball teams.

"We save the district anywhere from \$10,000-30,000 a year," Block said.

Block gave thanks to the volunteers who help keep the field in order, especially mowers Mark Hawkins, Jim Schommer and Dan Erick-

son. Many people involved with CAB have an interest in volunteering because they have children involved in baseball in Prescott, but the mowers put in the time because they simply want to help out.

"That's a lot of time to do it all for free," Block said. "I think it just speaks to the 'it takes a village' type of mentality of what we've got here in Prescott."

Block said there are not many entirely volunteer-run baseball venues, making the Prescott community a special one.

"It's just for the love of the game and the love of Prescott," Block said.

The reason people are willing to give up their time and money to help with the field is because they know the great history of baseball in Prescott, and they want to help make more memories, Block said.

CAB is trying to give the youth association, local baseball teams and softball teams the best possible experience, and it takes everyone to make it happen.

CAB recently redid the outfield fence at Firehall Field that now hosts adver-

tising for revenue to help future projects. In addition, CAB has recently redone the infield surface, built a maintenance shed and installed a hitting tee station and turf area.

The Prescott varsity baseball team, the Prescott Pirates of the St. Croix Valley Baseball League and the American Legion/Junior Legion baseball teams all play at the field, serving a variety of ages.

"If you drop by there at any point in time, you see kids age from five to 25 using the batting cages," Block said.

CAB aims to make improvements to the batting cages in the short-term.

In the future, CAB has a pair of lofty goals for upgrades. The first is a grandstand seating area similar to First National Bank of River Falls field but a bit smaller along with a new concession building. Another project mentioned would be bringing lights to the field, which Block said would cost around \$300,000.

For those interested in working with CAB as a volunteer or donor, email cabbco@gmail.com.



Dylan Gausman holds Kasey Bass close to first before the pitch in Prescott's 5-3 win over Ellsworth on July 24. Photo by Andrew Harrington

Prescott takes back-and-forth rivalry matchup

By Andrew Harrington

ELLSWORTH — There were some missed opportunities on both sides, but when it came down to it, the Prescott Pirates won the battle 5-3 over the Ellsworth Hubbers on July 24.

After squandering an opportunity with the bases loaded again in the second inning, the Pirates found themselves with the bases loaded again in the third, this time with one out. They capitalized, with Brady Block lacing a double to the left-centerfield gap to take a 2-0 lead.

"We had some innings where we could have blown it wide open and we didn't," Player/Manager Billy Brookshaw said. "It's easy to get frustrated in those scenari-

os."

The Hubbers would not go away quietly, with Austin Mason bringing a run home on a single in the third. In the fourth, Chuck Hewitt drilled one over the head of the right fielder, scoring Drake Flom from first and allowing Hewitt to wheel all the way to third. Bass drove Hewitt in with a single for a 3-2 lead.

Ellsworth held the lead briefly, but Prescott snatched it back permanently in the sixth. A wild pitch with runners on second and third brought a play at the plate that it seemed Ellsworth made, but the sliding runner caused pitcher Wes Dobbs to drop the ball, tying the game at three. Luke Murphy then drove in two on a single to left field, marking the end of

the scoring on either side for the rest of the night.

"We've had quite a few hits with not a ton of run production," Brookshaw said. "We're basically one or two hits away from where we need to be."

Starting pitcher Evan Bayer shut the Hubbers down in the fifth, sixth and seventh, carving through the lineup with ease. The eighth saw a pair of baserunners reach that Bayer held from scoring. Dylan Gausman came in for the ninth and also encountered some traffic, but got out of it as Bayer did.

While the Hubbers have posted some massive run totals coming out of the mid-season break, Bayer

See PIRATES, Page 14



SHOTS from the Hip

BY CRIFE OLSON

The Wisconsin Sports Network released its 2024 preseason football rankings and have private school La Crosse Aquinas as the #1 ranked team in Division 4. The Somerset Spartans are the top ranked Middle Border Conference school at #11, Baldwin-Woodville picked is at #13 and St. Croix Central is ranked #14. Prescott, Ellsworth, Altoona, and Osceola are picked as teams to watch this fall.

Head Coach Jordan Hansen and the Prescott football team participated in a multi-day scrimmage with Holmen High School last month. The Cardinals return more than a dozen seniors from a year ago and are picked to finish in the top half of the always tough Middle Border Conference. Hansen said the team emerged from the annual scrimmage 100% healthy.

University of Wisconsin golfer Ava Salay is a month away from beginning her second season with the Badgers. A 2023 Prescott alumnus, Salay and her teammates will open the season at University Ridge Golf Course on Sept. 8-10 when Wisconsin hosts the Badger Invitational.

Speaking of golf Prescott Head Girls Golf Coach Chad Salay and the powerful Cardinal golf team are two weeks away from kicking off their season. The prohibitive Middle Border Conference favorite, Prescott will compete in Division I during the WIAA Tournament series.

From the WIAA: The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association performance factor initiative has advanced through the process for the third time with a review of the spring sports for implementation in 2024-25. An ad hoc committee consisting of 11 superintendents/district administrators, six athletic directors, one principal and one principal/athletic director proposed the performance factor process, which was approved by a 265-115 membership vote at the 2023 Annual Meeting for implementation in 2024-25. The initiative promotes school programs that reach a threshold of tournament success based on a performance point system allocated over a three-year period. School programs reaching the six-point performance factor threshold during the past three seasons

are placed in the division containing the next largest set of enrollments from where the schools' enrollments would place them for each respective sport other than track & field and swimming & diving—which do not have a team component to advancement in the Tournament Series—and sports with only one division. Schools are restricted to moving up a maximum of one division from the previous year's placement. St. Croix Falls baseball team will move up to Division 2 as will the La Crosse Aquinas baseball team. The Amery boys golf team will move up a division as will the Grantsburg softball team.

A trio of Prescott alumni are poised to begin the season on the University of Wisconsin-River Falls football team this month. Sophomore linebacker Brady Block, junior linebacker Jack Olson, and senior offensive lineman Austin Fox will all play for the Falcons this fall.

Infielder Peter Brookshaw and the rest of the Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks are one and a half games behind the division-leading Sioux Falls Canaries. The Redhawks have one month left in the regular season before playoffs begin. Brookshaw remains among the team leaders in several offensive categories.

Michigan Tech All Conference returnee Isabella Lenz and her Huskie teammates will open the 2024-25 season in Wisconsin Dells for the JustAGame Crossover, facing Great Lakes Valley Conference affiliate Lewis—an NCAA Tournament team a season ago on Nov. 8 and Great Midwest Athletic Conference affiliate Thomas More-Kentucky on Nov. 9. Both games are scheduled for a 1 p.m. tip off. Lenz is a 2021 graduate of Prescott High School.

From the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: The DNR is seeking volunteers to promote safe, responsible and ethical hunting practices as hunter education instructors. Volunteer opportunities are available in all parts of the state. Since the program's creation in 1967, more than 20,000 volunteer instructors have trained and certified more than one million hunters across Wisconsin. These efforts have

helped make hunting much safer, with a 95% decrease in hunting-related incidents since the program's start. In addition to shaping the future of Wisconsin's hunting tradition, becoming a volunteer instructor is a great way to obtain hands-on teaching experience, work closely with DNR staff and engage with your local community. There are two ways to become a certified volunteer hunter education instructor. Interested volunteers can serve as apprentices under a sponsoring instructor for at least two complete courses or attend a certification training session hosted by a DNR Outdoor Skills Trainer. Once certified, the DNR provides volunteer instructors with all the materials and equipment required to teach a hunter education course. Instructors must teach one class every three years to remain certified, although many teach more.

Headshaker of the week. This week's rendition is connected to the game of pickleball. Invented by Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum in 1965 at Pritchard's summer home on Bainbridge Island, Wash., the three dads wanted to create some fun for their kids during the summer, and improvised paddles and a wiffle ball to play with a badminton net after they could not find a badminton birdie. Over the last two decades participation in the sport has exploded. Nary does a day go by when local players are not showcasing their serves, and hitting sizzling forehands and spinning backhands on the playing areas adjacent to the middle school. In Prescott, providing pickleball courts for the increasingly popular activity has been a wise investment by the community. Well done. However, true to form, an eye rolling aspect of the sport has sadly emerged. Fantasy Pickleball. Yep, Fantasy Pickleball. Headquartered out of Texas, Major League Pickleball has partnered with Franklin Sporting Goods to provide game enthusiasts the opportunity to win money by betting on the sport. For you cynics out there who believe this is made up here is the address: <https://www.fantasypickleball.net/>. You have got to be kidding me. Fantasy Pickleball? Now that's a headshaker.



OUTDOOR Tales and Trails

BY DAVE BECK

A Canadian adventure

I have good news and bad news. What would you like first? Okay, good news first: I went on a Canadian musky fishing trip. The bad news: I'm back from the Canadian musky fishing trip. It's the first time I ever went to Canada to fish specifically for muskies. I wasn't disappointed. I could easily fill up a month's worth of OTT columns just from the seven-day trip but I am going to condense it down to just two weeks. This first week isn't even about me catching fish but rather what happened when I went fishing one afternoon.

I was with an old friend, Brent "Ghost Tail." That's not his actual last name but the name of the musky lure company that Brent and his dad owned and operated for years. If you can find a musky tackle box without any Ghost Tail lures on it I'll show you someone who is brand new to musky fishing.

So I'm fishing with Brent on the Winnipeg River north of Kenora, Ontario, when I notice a peculiar looking boat pull up to a pontoon full of walleye fishermen. The boat was outfitted with some fancy antennas and other things that made it appear to be used more for business than for pleasure. I told Brent that soon we would be having a friendly chat with some guys from the Canadian Ministry Department, which is Canada's version of the DNR.

Growing up as the son of a commercial fisherman I had plenty of interaction with the local DNR. My dad had a long running feud with the DNR. I know that they never sent him a Christmas card. I'm happy to say that they eventually buried the hatchet. My dad even cooked catfish for them at a local convention. As for me, I always thought the DNR had to deal with bad people in bad situations. I wasn't going to be any part of either of those things so when I do encounter a wildlife official, I always greet them with a hello and make sure that they know immediately that it will be a pleasant visit.

When the two young Ministry Department employees introduced themselves, I asked them if they had caught any bad guys lately. They looked at each other and



My friend Brent and I had a nice chat with Canadian Ministry Department officials while on a fishing trip near Kenora, Ontario. Photo by Dave Beck



It pays to be pleasant with the DNR or Canadian Ministry Department: They gave us a walleye meal since we were fishing legally. Photo by Dave Beck

smiled indicating that they had a story. We showed them our licenses and chatted about musky fishing. The wardens asked us "Do you guys eat fish?" It seemed like an odd question but we both said "yes."

They told us they had caught some walleye guys who were over their limit and rather than take all the confiscated fish back with them, they handed them out to people who were fishing legally. The younger warden asked us how many licensed anglers we had in our camp. We said "five" so the warden pulled out five beautiful walleyes that were already cleaned, vacuum packed and frozen. Brent and I signed a paper that explained everything that had just taken place and the wardens left us with smiles on our faces.

Now the wardens didn't go into a lot of detail about the confiscated fish, but they did

pass along that the anglers were nine fish over their legal limit which prompted a search of their fish camp which resulted in the loss of all their fish. As I write this I can't help but think of a quote from the great Mark Twain: *Nobody with a full stringer of fish goes home by the way of the back alley.* Well, maybe those Canadian walleye anglers should have.

The next night we had the best Canadian walleye fish fry ever in our musky fishing camp.

Didn't get enough Dave this week? Visit "Outdoor Trails and Tales with Dave Beck" on Facebook for photos and video of Dave's adventures. You can share your own photos and video with him there as well, or by emailing him at dave@piercecountyjournal.news Also, check out OTT content on Instagram @thepiercecountyjournal

Hawks soar to late season win over Hubbers

By Andrew Harrington

SPRING VALLEY — Some early miscues allowed the Ellsworth Hubbers to take to the scoreboard early, but the Spring Valley Hawks answered back with 12 unanswered runs for a 12-2 win in seven innings July 26.

With runners on first and third for the Hubbers and a full count to the batter, runner Derek Johnson took off on a pitch that was ultimately ball four. Unaware of the count, catcher Garrett Guthrie made the mistake of throwing down to second base where no one was covering due to the walk. Kasey Bass ended up scoring from third as the ball trickled into the outfield.

In the third, Bass hit a ground ball that looked destined for a double play, but an errant throw to first brought in a second run.

This served as a wake-up call for the Hawks, who would quickly move on and begin to fight back.

"I just think we started clicking on all cylinders," Blaine Guthrie, who had a strong day at the plate for the Hawks, said. "The zone opened up a little bit more, and calls started going our way a little bit more. That's when the wave started and we kind of rode it."

The Hawks worked things out, absolutely cruising to a 10-run win. The hitting came from just about everyone in the lineup, with three runs coming in the third, two in the fourth, two in the fifth, three in the sixth and two in the seventh.

While everyone was hitting, Zac Balsiger stood out the most to Guthrie.

"He really turned things around for us. He came up to



Treyesen Witt deals a pitch during a 12-2 win for the Spring Valley Hawks over the Ellsworth Hubbers on July 26. Photo by Andrew Harrington

the leadoff spot, and I want to say he had three hits tonight," Guthrie said. "Up and down the lineup we had just timely

hitting."

On the mound it was Treyesen Witt going the distance, locking in to keep the Hub-

bers quiet while the Spring Valley offense put up big numbers.

"He's a bulldog, and that's just the best way to put it," Guthrie said. "Nothing's going to get in his way. He's going to keep doing what he's been doing his whole life. I think that's just his best asset about him."

The Hubbers had posted major offensive numbers themselves a week prior, but after scoring three against Prescott and two against Spring Valley, they are in need of a spark heading into the St. Croix Valley Baseball League Tournament that runs from Aug. 2-4.

"Momentum's a funny thing," Hubbers Manager Jeremiah Paulson said. "Hitting is contagious and it's equally contagious the other way. Guys aren't going good, they start pressing. Same way

when you're going good, guys are more relaxed and more free."

For all the teams in the tournament, the key will be having a number of pitchers they can trust to give them innings. In a tournament style of play, it will take more than a couple of pitchers to lead to the title, and Paulson knows that.

"We'll throw the same guys, get the innings out of them," Paulson said. The goal will be to keep them fresh. We don't want to burn them out a week before playoffs."

Guthrie said the winner of the tournament will be decided by which team is hitting well in a league where pitching often takes the spotlight. Guthrie said Spring Valley, River Falls and Hudson are three teams that have a good shot at bringing home the title.

Smith

from Page 13

them and showcasing them. For an opportunity for them to be in the spotlight a little bit more and showcase what they can do."

Whether it is in the form of a musical, basketball team or any other extracurricular, Smith wants students to have the experience of working with others.

"Build self-confidence, be a part of a team," Smith said. "Building life-long skills that

you can't always get in the classroom."

Reflecting on his previous stint in Prescott, Smith aims to find a better work-life balance to spend time with his wife and four kids.

"The position has changed a little bit since I left," Smith said. "There's a little more flexibility with that. So that was really a strong draw to bring me back."

Smith also said he feels more comfortable with decision making with more experience this time around.

Starting off, Smith is looking to reach out to many of

the teachers, coaches and extra-curricular leaders in the district to get reacquainted with the role. While Smith is transitioning into the role, he recognized that the leaders of these extracurriculars are also facing a transition to a new activities director which can be difficult.

"Kind of that servant leadership type approach," Smith said. "How can I make things easier on their end?"

"We're all in this together," Smith said. "That collaboration piece is going to be a very important one, and vital for our success."

Pirates

from Page 13

made things tough on them. Bayer dealt eight innings of three-run ball and kept the team in the game while they were scratching runs across.

"Evan's pitched for so many years. He pitched in college, he's pitched for the Pirates for years. He knows how he can come back," Brookshaw said. "As long as he's throwing strikes and we're playing defense, we're going to be fine."

Nobody plays baseball in Ellsworth or Prescott growing

up without playing in their fair share of battles between the two towns, and to some, the game just means a little bit more.

"You play them so many times. It's always fun to come and play Ellsworth, especially when you win," Brookshaw said. "We just love coming down and playing here, no matter what day it is."

Bayer said they also have a rivalry against River Falls, but the Ellsworth matchup means a lot to the team.

"In this league, we typically are favored up against the [River Falls] Fish quite a bit, but for me, this is a big one," Bayer said. "I used to play for the

Hubbers, so it's always nice to get a win out here."

The key for Prescott moving forward will be scoring those runners that get on base. After picking up 10 hits against the Hubbers, Brookshaw said they missed some opportunities to bring those runners home.

"We've kind of been playing down all year, it's been a little bit of a struggle sometimes," Bayer said. "Today we found a way to battle."

Next up is the St. Croix Valley Baseball League Tournament on Aug. 2-4, with the Wisconsin Baseball Association Regional Playoffs a week later.

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OBITUARIES

Norma Pasch

1930-2024

Norma Pasch, age 94, of Spring Valley, died Monday, July 22, 2024 at Spring Valley Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Norma was born May 17, 1930, to Henry and Zylpha (Marley) Larson in New Richmond, Wis. She grew up and attended school in New Richmond, graduating with the Class of 1948. She was married to Raymond Clemmens in 1949 and they lived in Oakdale, Minn. While living in Minnesota, she joined the North St. Paul V.F.W. Raymond died in 1965. Norma then married Chuck McClane. They were married just six months when he died unexpectedly.

On May 23, 1975, Norma married Lawrence Pasch. They lived and farmed in Gilman Township west

of Spring Valley for about 20 years. Norma had also worked at 3M for about 20 years. When they retired from farming, Norma and Lawrence moved to Spring Valley. Norma lived at the Chalet Apartments in Spring Valley for 27 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands Raymond, Chuck, Bill, and Lawrence; Son Raymond; siblings: Laverne, Ethel, Zylpha Marie, Georginia, Erwin, Violet, Myrtle, Olaf, Olga, Henry, and Dorothy.

Survivors include sons Donald Clemmens, Tom (Kristen) Clemmens, and Bruce (Peggy) Stearns; daughter Jody Lynn (Jeff) Larson; many grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Visitation was held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5, 2024, at Keehr Funeral Home, Spring Valley.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5, at New Richmond Ceme-



tery. A luncheon followed at Sather Nature Center.

Keehr Funeral Home, (www.keehrfuneralhome.com) Spring Valley is handling arrangements.



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PUBLIC Notice

ing a One-Year Affordable Housing Extension for TID 5 MS Downing/Mueller to approve resolution. The mayor asked for comments. Morrisette asked that staff prepare information on what the City is going to do with the funds and how the City can target the goal of affordable housing with those funds. He wants to see the direction. Morrisette would like to see something by the end of the year. **With no other comments, the mayor asked for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously.**

Resolution No. 6902 - Approving Submission of Electric Rate Case to the Public Service Commission Finance Director Josh Solinger provided a presentation on the two rate cases before Council. Solinger noted there were consultants joining online who could answer questions if needed. Solinger said the electric rates were last changed in 2020 and the water rates in 2016. He talked about two recent opportunities the Council has had to discuss the rate cases - at a joint workshop on February 27, 2024, and at a UAB meeting on October 16, 2023. Solinger talked about growth paying for itself in part. He said there are three main examples. The first was developer contributed assets are excluded from the Public Services Commission's (PSC) net investment rate base. He provided an explanation. The second was tax increment financing. He gave the example of Mann Valley Corporate Park and the TID paying debt service. The third example was impact fees and developer financing. Solinger provided details and an example.

Solinger talked about the three-step rate application process. The first step is to determine the revenue requirement for the utility (6.2 percent). The second step is a cost-of-service study. The third step is the rate design. Solinger provided details about each step.

Solinger talked about the revenue requirement for the utility. For the electric rates, he said the consultant has recommended that the city seeks 6.25 percent from the PSC. It is a negotiated process.

Solinger continued and talked about the water rates, rate design, and residential bills. He recapped assumptions discussed at the workshops. The City aims to provide value for quality, reliability, service. Solinger provided examples of service. He spoke again about how new growth pays for itself in part. Solinger continued and talked about next steps with the submission of the rate case application. He talked about working with the PSC on the rate case and possible scenarios and adjustments. If Council approves submission, final rates are approved by the PSC. Solinger stood for questions. **The Mayor asked for a motion before Council discussion. MS Morrisette/Odeen move to approve resolution.**

Morrisette inquired about the last electric increase in 2019 and implementation in last 2020 due to Covid. The City hasn't had a water increase since 2016. He talked about waiting for a long time with an electric increase. It was a dramatic increase - so we don't want to do that anymore (wait). We want to test it every 3-4 years. Morrisette talked about having a good rate of return also helps the City with its bond rating so it is important that we stay up-to-speed for bond rating purposes also.

Odeen talked about climate change strategy - it's a good thing for public entities to do. She talked about the importance of infrastructure being in good shape and being able to withstand stress. Historically, the City has done a good job with that, but it comes with its own expense.

Downing thanked Utility Direc-

tor Kevin Westhuis. He talked about working toward having Grade A water. Downing talked about the City ranking low (#3) in price, and now we are dealing with inflation. We are working toward keeping those prices and keeping that Grade A water quality at the same time. He appreciated the work that went into it.

With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 6903 - Approving Submission of Water Rate Case to the Public Service Commission **MSC Mueller/Downing move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

REPORTS: Administrator's Report City Administrator Simpson provided updates and event information. Alderperson Downing had questions regarding processes and transparency for the community. He spoke about two recent employee resignations. He talked about process the city has in place which includes a formal review and appeals process. Downing asked Simpson to explain the process, asked if the employees had appealed, and about the timeline for the sustainability coordinator position.

Simpson said the appeal Downing is referring to is probably a formal grievance procedure. After Act 11, the City put in place a statutorily referenced grievance procedure. Simpson declined to speak about specific employees. Simpson talked about the different steps of the process. He said the timeline for the sustainability coordinator would be 90-120 days until we have the position filled. There's work to be done on the job description and getting it advertised. He provided more details.

Downing asked about including it in our transparency commitment. Simpson asked for clarification - asking if he was referring to the personnel policy. Downing said parts that the public would be interested in. Simpson said it is possible it is already available on a web link. It is available to the employees because that's who it relates to. Simpson will think about it and get some advice. It is available through public records request; he doesn't think there's any reason that we can't. Downing appreciated Simpson answering the difficult questions.

Comptroller's Report for May 2024 Comptroller Odeen read the following report: General Fund revenues through the end of April were \$4,069,686 or 29.9% of total budgeted revenues for the year. Revenues in April include \$20,323 from recreation programs, \$26,298 from franchise revenues and \$48,460 from building permits. Expenditures through the end of April were \$3,918,865 or 28.8% of total budget expenditures for the year. As of April 30, 2024, net revenues over expenditures were \$150,821.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Alderperson Morrisette read a proclamation for Parks and Recreation. Alderperson Odeen read the Proclamation Recognizing ARC's Service to the Community.

Mayor's Appointment for the BID Board Appointment of Andrew Singhouse through May 2026 **MSC Morrisette/Downing move to approve the Mayor's Appointment. Unanimous.**

MSC Bjerstedt/Morrisette move to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

City of River Falls

Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will not be a City of River Falls Plan Commission meeting on August 6, 2024. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 3, 2024.

Posted: July 24, 2024
Published: July 31, 2024

WNAXLP 7 31

Town of Kinnickinnic Town Board Meeting August 6, 2024 7:00pm

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Kinnickinnic will meet Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall, 1271 County Road J River Falls.*

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Pledge of Allegiance
IV. Statement of Public Notice

V. Clerk's Report
a. "Class B" Liquor License Quota
VI. Approve Minutes
VII. Treasurer's Report
VIII. Public Comments
IX. New Business
a. Town Website, discussion and action.
b. Raymond Road Permit Violations and Enforcement, discussion and action.
c. Budget Meeting, set date, discussion and action.
d. The Current, discussion and action.
e. Ordinance/Resolution Review, discussion and action.
i. Review and update Alcohol Beverages Ordinance 2015-2
f. Funding Maintenance, discussion and action.

X. Old Business
a. Red Oaks Estates, discussion and action.
b. Update of Plan Commission, discussion and action.
c. Update of the Road Committee, discussion and action.
d. Update of Comprehensive Plan Review, discussion and action.
e. iPad Training, discussion and action.
XI. Pay Bills
XII. Accounts Receivable
a. Fire Bills

XIII. CLOSED SESSION: Per Wis. Stat. 19.85(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session - negotiations for fire service
XIV. Chair Announcements**
XV. Adjourn

Nicky Thompson, Clerk. This agenda is subject to change. The posted agenda at the Town Hall is the primary notice.

***Town Hall is handicapped accessible**
****This topic is to be limited to such items as establishing the next meeting date, items for the next agenda, and reminders of scheduled events.**

*****The Board may take action on any of the above agenda items, committee and commission members may attend for information gathering purpose, should a quorum appear, an agenda item will be subject for approval at a future TB meeting.**

WNAXLP 7 31



PUBLIC Notice

CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

June 25, 2024

Mayor Toland called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

City Council Members Present: Todd Bjerstedt, Sean Downing, Scott Morrisette, Alyssa Mueller, Diane Odeen

Members Absent: Jeff Bjork, Nick Carow

Staff Present: City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jon Smits; City Administrator Scot Simpson; Community Services Director/City Clerk Amy White; Community Development Director Amy Peterson; Assistant Community Development Director Emily Shively; Deputy Clerk Jackie Hanson; City Engineer Todd Nickleski; Chief of Staff Jennifer Smith, Utility Director Kevin Westhuis, Finance Director Josh Solinger, Sergeant James Walker, Senior Planner Harley Mehlhorn

Others present: Cecil Bjork, Tonya Schmitt, Mike Noreen, Dana Linscott, Lance Hovland, Robin Boles, Patricia La Rue, Tyler Stansbury, Michael Gust, Raphael Ptacek, Mallory Kleven (online), Erik Granum (online), Christine DeMaster (online), others

The pledge of allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

MSC Morrisette/Mueller move to approve the minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Bills: \$2,142,143.23

MSC Bjerstedt/Downing moved to approve the bills. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Cecil Bjork, 320 Church Street - came to talk about Ordinance 2024-03 and SISU River Falls.

Mike Noreen, 409 N. 4 th Street - talked about appointment of an interim City Forester and the CIP.

Lance Hovland, 310 W. Charlotte Street - talked about sustainability and a climate action plan.

Dana Linscott, W11395 County Road M - talked about the yard waste site.

Robin Boles, W7231 730 th Avenue - encouraged the Council to consider writing a separate job description for a city forester. She also asked for reinstatement of the Tree Advisory Committee.

Patricia La Rue, 489 Marcella Court - talked about serving on the Park Board and her passion for serving the community.

Tonya Schmitt, 622 W. Elm Street - asked Council to continue the Powerful Choices Program.

Alderperson Downing recognized Melody Waldon who was the presenter for a River Falls Bee City Committee event. He also invited the public to an upcoming Bee City event.

recessed into a Public Hearing asking if anyone had comments about the license renewals. As there were no public comments, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:46 p.m.

The mayor took a roll call of the agents in attendance. Agents were present from Aldi, Burrito X, Dollar General, Family Fresh, Holiday, Paddy's Pub & Boxy House, River Falls Baseball Council, and Tarnation Tavern.

The mayor asked the new agents for Aldi and Holiday to come to the podium. Alderperson Morrisette asked agents Tyler Stansbury and Michael Gust if they understand the role of an agent, if they possess a responsible server's certificate, and if they understand if an alcohol related violation occurred and they were not present, they are still responsible. Stansbury and Gust answered yes to all the questions. Morrisette was satisfied with the response.

MSC Downing/Mueller move to grant renewals for the "Class A" Liquor and Class "A" Beer Licenses for Aldi, Dollar General, Family Fresh, and Holiday contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance. Unanimous.

MSC Morrisette/Bjerstedt move to grant renewals for the Class "B" Beer Licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for the River Falls Baseball Council. Unanimous.

MSC Morrisette/Odeen move to grant renewals "Class C" wine licenses contingent on all licensing requirements being met at the time of issuance for River Falls Baseball Council. Unanimous.

MSC Morrisette/Bjerstedt move to grant renewals for the Combination "Class B" Liquor and Class "B" Beer Licenses contingent on all licensing requirements being met at the time of issuance for Burrito X, Paddy's Pub & Boxy House, and Tarnation Tavern. Unanimous.

Request for a Combination "Class A" Liquor and Class "A" Beer License - Ptaceks Family Market, Inc. The mayor asked if Raphael Ptacek would come forward to answer questions. Alderperson Odeen asked if he understood the role of an agent, if he possessed a responsible server's certificate, and if he understood he is responsible for an alcohol related violation even if he is not present at the time of occurrence. Ptacek answered yes to all questions.

MS Downing/Bjerstedt move to grant the request for a Combination "Class A" Liquor and Class "A" Beer License for Ptaceks Family Market, Inc.

City Administrator Simpson noted there needed to be a Public Hearing. **At 6:52 p.m., the mayor recessed into a Public Hearing asking if there were any comments regarding the license request. As there were none, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:52 p.m.** Alderperson Morrisette asked the clerk to mark him as abstaining from the vote. **With no questions or comments, the mayor asked for a vote. The vote passed unanimously with all voting in favor except for Morris-**

sette who abstained.

Ordinance 2024-02 - An Ordinance Rezoning Certain City-owned lands in the Mann Valley Corporate Park to Corporate Park District - Second Reading and Disposition At 6:53 p.m. the mayor recessed into a Public Hearing asking if anyone had comments about the ordinance. As there were no comments, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:53 p.m. Resolution No. 6894 - Approving the Final Plat for Mann Valley Corporate Park **MSC Odeen/Mueller move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

Ordinance 2024-02 - An Ordinance Rezoning Certain City-owned lands in the Mann Valley Corporate Park to Corporate Park District - Second Reading and Disposition The mayor noted there were no public comments about the ordinance and asked for a motion. MSC Bjerstedt/Mueller move to approve the ordinance. Unanimous.

Ordinance 2024-03 Amending the Membership of the Plan Commission in Section 2.56.010 - Administration and Personnel of the Municipal Code - First Reading At 6:55 p.m. the mayor recessed into a Public Hearing asking if anyone had comments about the ordinance. As there were no comments, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:55 p.m. and asked the Council if there were any questions.

Alderperson Downing asked Simpson if this ordinance met state statutes. Simpson referred the question to City Attorney Gierhart. Gierhart didn't see anything in the ordinance that would conflict with Chapter 62.23. He would look closer later but said this was a first reading and was pretty straight forward. Downing thanked Gierhart and looked forward to hearing what he had to say.

CONSENT AGENDA: Acknowledgment of the following minutes: Library Board - 5/6/24; Plan Commission - 5/7/24; Historic Preservation Commission - 6/12/24; Utility Advisory Board - 5/20/24; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission - 5/16/24; BID Board - 5/15/24; Board of Review - 5/28/24; Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - 5/15/24

Resolution No. 6895 - Approving 2023 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR)

Resolution No. 6896 - Approving an Interim City Forester

Resolution No. 6897 - Approving 2024-2025 Merchant McIntyre Associates Agreement

Resolution No. 6898 - Approving the General Development Plan for Sisu River Falls

Resolution No. 6899 - Amending Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau Request for Noise Control Exemption and Open Container for River Falls Days

Resolution No. 6900 - Approving Tattersall's Service Retail Outlet

MSC Morrisette/Odeen to approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Resolution No. 6901 - Approv-

PUBLIC Notice

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT,
PIERCE COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No.
24PR47**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
RUXANDRA A. HARMON**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth August 8, 1967 and date of death June 4, 2024 and was domiciled in County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W3510 County Road G, Ellsworth, WI 54011.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 28, 2024
5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

FORM COMPLETED:
Leo A. Beskar

ADDRESS:
Rodli, Beskar, Neuhaus, Murray & Pletcher, S.C.

TELEPHONE:
715-425-7281

BAR NUMBER:
1003297

WNAXLP 7 24 31, 8 7

**STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT,
PIERCE COUNTY**

**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR33**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
Donna M. Blue**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth September 9, 1939 and date of death March 5, 2024 was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 142 Evergreen estates, Ellsworth, WI 54011.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 25, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

Form Completed:
Nicole V. Niewolny
Address:
219 North Main Street
River Falls, WI 54011
Telephone:
715-424-7281
Bar Number:
1126385

WNAXLP 7 17, 24, 31

**CITY OF PRESCOTT
July 22, 2024,
City Council
Meeting Minutes**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, City Council Meeting of the Prescott City Council was held on Monday, July 22, 2024, in the Prescott Municipal Building, 800 Borner St. Prescott, WI 54021.

1. CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Daugherty called the regular City Council meeting to order, July 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL
Members present for the roll call were Michael Gerke, Maureen Otwell, Adam Granquist, Dar Hintz, and Lindsey Sorenson. John Peterson was excused. Also present were City Administrator, Matt Wolf, Clerk, Rashel Temmers and Chief of Police, Eric Michaels.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS
There were no public comments.

4. PROCLAMATION
Mayor Daugherty read a Proclamation commending the girls' softball team and their coaches. The Mayor presented the Proclamation to coach Nick Johnson.

5. CONSENT AGENDA
1. Tourism Committee Minutes – June 6, 2024
2. City Council Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2024
3. Health and Safety Committee – July 8, 2024
4. Parks and Public Works Committee – July 15, 2024
5. Freedom Park Water and Internet Service Memo

Otwell/Granquist motioned to approve the consent agenda. Alderperson Otwell commended city staff for the informative memo regarding the utilities at Freedom Park. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.

6. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS
A. FINANCE COMMITTEE
B. PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting - Monday, August

5, 2024, at 6:00 PM
C. PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS – Next Meeting – Monday, August 19, 2024, at 5:00 PM
City Administrator, Matt Wolf, reviewed the July 15, 2024, committee meeting minutes. City code 526 was reviewed and will be discussed later in the meeting. Downtown signage was reviewed. The city will be looking to replace about 20-40 signs. The compost project update was also discussed.
G. HEALTH & SAFETY – Next Meeting – Monday, September 9, 2024, at 5:00 PM
H. PERSONNEL – Special Meeting – Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 5:00 PM
Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 5:00 PM

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND NEW BUSINESS
1. PUBLIC COMMENTS – The City Council will receive public comments on any issue(s) not related to agenda items. Limited discussion by the City Council may take place; however, no action will be taken on any items. This includes receiving written requests or documentation and possible action at a future meeting.

Dave Peterson appeared and wanted to question the rules on people that ride their bicycles on the sidewalks on main street. Alderperson Gerke stated that bicycles are not to be ridden on sidewalks unless the tires are 20 inches or less (children's bikes). Alderperson Hintz asked Mr. Peterson where exactly he was talking about if it was just downtown or all over the city. Mr. Peterson stated just downtown. Mr. Peterson also stated that the city should remove the engine braking signs and issue citations for loud exhaust. Alderperson Otwell questioned whether he was talking about motorcycles. Mr. Peterson stated regular vehicles.

2. Trees and Shrubs City Code Modifications
a. Ordinance 05-24 Repealing Chapter 30-9, Tree Board – First Reading

b. Ordinance 06-24 Amend and Additions City Ordinance 526 – Trees and Shrubs – First Reading

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, reviewed Ordinance 05-24 Repealing Chapter 30-9 and Ordinance 06-24 amending and additions to Ordinance, Chapter 526. Ordinance 30-9 speaks about establishing a Tree Board which has only met once back in 2014. We are looking to dissolve this committee and move this to the Parks and Public Works committee which already takes care of the trees and shrubs. Under Chapter 526, this would be covered by the Parks and Public Works Committee as well. Alderperson Gerke asked the Mayor if he thought either of these items would need a second or third reading. Mayor stated no, as these are just modifications to Chapter 526. **Hintz/Otwell motioned to approve Ordinance 05-24 Repealing Chapter 30-9, Tree Board – First Reading and to waive the second and third readings. No further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote. Hintz/Gerke motioned to approve Ordinance 06-24 Amend and Additions City Ordinance 526 – Trees and Shrubs – First Reading and to waive the second and third readings. No further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

8. OTHER BUSINESS
1. Joint Board of Education Meeting with the Prescott Common Council – Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 5:00 PM
2. Open Book – Monday, July 29, 2024, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
3. Board of Review – August 15, 2024, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

9. CLOSED SESSION
No closed session .

10. ADJOURNMENT
Hintz/Granquist motioned to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:16 p.m. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rashel Temmers
Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

Town of Ellsworth

The Ellsworth Town Board will meet Monday, August 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall (W6058 490 th Avenue, Ellsworth).

Agenda: call to order; minutes; financial report; Public comment – brief comment from the public regarding items not on the agenda or items submitted for future agendas; road work report; update on 490 th Ave LRP project; ARIP road project; reflective road sign replacement; other road work, employee benefits; approve driveway applications; grant operator and provisional licenses; adopt Ordinance 2024-2 Appointing Town Clerk; further discussion on vendors for scanning and saving town records; town hall discussion/ action; approve bills; information – Hannah Ninneman conditional

use permit to go before plan commission; correspondence; animal issues; next meeting dates; adjourn.

Any agenda changes will be posted at the town hall. Board may take action on any agenda item at the meeting.

Phyllis J Beastron, Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

**TOWN OF CLIFTON
Board Meeting**

The Town of Clifton Board will meet Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the Clifton Town Hall, corner of FF and QQ. Agenda: call to order, approval of minutes, treasurer's report, public comment, building permits, discuss/action on: records retention, electric work on town hall building, Prescott Fire and EMS agreement, approval of checks, adjournment.

Submitted by
Kris Johnson
Clifton Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP 7 31

**Town of Trenton
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the regular monthly planning meeting for the Town of Trenton will be held at the Trenton Town Hall W7926-250 th Ave Hager City, WI 54014

Thursday August 8th, 2024, at 7:00 PM

There may be a quorum of the Town Board present, however there will be no Town Board business conducted.

1. Call meeting to order.
 2. Approve minutes from the last meeting.
 3. Set next meeting dates, to be September 5 th and October 3 rd , and November 7 th of 2024.
 4. Public comments
 5. Appointment of Vice Chairman and Secretary
 6. William Morris Conditional use permit for home improvements
 7. Town Board member written report.
 8. Correspondence
- Adjourn

All agenda items are posted for discussion and possible action by the Planning Commission

Dated this 26 th day of July of 2024

Greg Sprick – Planning Commission Chairperson

WNAXLP 7 31

TOWN OF TRIMBELLE

The monthly meeting for the Town of Trimble will be held on Monday, August 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Trimble Town Hall (N5310 800 th Street, Ellsworth, WI) Monthly meeting summary: The meeting date was changed to the first Tuesday because of the Election on the second Tuesday.

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Approval of minutes.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Road work report.
6. Public comment. Brief comment from the public regarding items not on the agenda. Items may be submitted for future agendas.
7. The board will act on Operator's Licenses.
8. The board will act on Drive-way Permits.
9. The board will give an update on the progress of the clean-up property request
10. The board will give an update on the tree falling on the road at 570 th and County Road O
11. The board will discuss Open Record Requests and appoint two people, when needed, to assist the clerk in completing the requests.
12. The board will discuss and act on whether or not to eliminate the Xcel program sirens.
13. The board will discuss and act on the purchase of a Ditch Mower.
14. Correspondence.
15. Bills (review/approve payments).
16. Next meeting date with any future agenda items.
17. Adjourn.

The summary supplements the Town's Official meeting notice. Information was current when submitted but may be subject to change. An Official Town Meeting notice will be posted at the Town Hall, Pierce Pepin Electric Cooperative and Courtesy Auto. Any updates will be posted at least 24 hours in advance.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Kees, Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

**TOWN OF
DIAMOND BLUFF
Notice of Town Board
Meeting**

The Town Board of the Town of Diamond Bluff, Pierce County, Wisconsin, hereby provides notice and agenda of the public meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Diamond Bluff for **Thursday, August 8th, 2024 at 7:00PM at the Diamond Bluff Town Hall.** The public may provide comments to the Town Board if the presiding officer

notes on the agenda and upon recognition a period of public comments.

Agenda : Call to order, Roll call of Board Members present, Approval of minutes from previous meeting, Approval to pay claims as presented, Treasurer's Report, Correspondence and Communication, Township Road Update, Excel Emergency Sirens, Sea Wing Park Committee, Informal public comment time, Agenda items for next meeting, Next meeting date, Adjournment.

For details and other Diamond Bluff Town information go to www.diamondbluffwi.gov

WNAXLP 7 31

**Ellsworth Community
School District
445 S. Piety Street
Ellsworth, WI 54011

(715) 273-3900**

School Board Meeting Notice
The Ellsworth Community School District Board of Education will meet on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Ellsworth Elementary School Community Room for a regular school board meeting. The agenda: Call to Order, Roll Call, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS- Trap Team State Performance. OLD BUSINESS- ACTION: Approval of the July 8, 2024, school board meeting minutes, Approval of the July 23, 2024, school board workshop meeting minutes, Approval of the July 2024 financial report. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS. OPEN PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. NEW BUSINESS- ACTION: Personnel Report, 2024-2025 Employee Handbook updates and revisions, Pool Daily Use and Membership Rates, Project Search Agreement, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Agreement NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION: Seclusion and Restraint report for the 2023-2024 school year, School District Budget update: 2024-2025 school year, School Board Policy Volume 33, Number 2 May 2024- first reading. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT- High School Bleacher and cafeteria project, Chamber of Commerce meeting, Title IX updates.

ADJOURN

WNAXLP 7 31

**Ellsworth Community
School District
445 S. Piety Street
Ellsworth, WI 54011
(715) 273-3900**

The Budget and Finance Committee of the Ellsworth Community School District will meet on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ellsworth Community School District Community Room. THE AGENDA: 2024-2025 Budget Update. A quorum of the board may be present.

WNAXLP 7 31

**TOWN OF OAK GROVE
Meeting Cancellation**

The meeting of the Oak Grove Plan Commission originally scheduled for August 8, 2024, has been cancelled by the chair (no new business). The Plan Commission regularly meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the town hall, N4939 1100th St., 54021. Notices in the *Journal* are provided as a courtesy to supplement the town's official notices, which are posted at the town hall and online at www.co.pierce.wi.us (under Government > Municipal/Town > Oak Grove). -- Andria Hayday, Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
PIERCE COUNTY

Case No. 24CV000071**

WEST BEND MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY AS SUBROGEE OF TOUSLEY MOTORSPORTS INC

Plaintiff,

vs.

CARL M BALLOY

Defendant.

AMENDED SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

TO: CARL M BALLOY
771 W CAIRNS ST
ELLSWORTH WI 54011

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within Forty (40) days after July 17, 2024, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY, PO BOX 129 -414 W MAIN ST, ELLSWORTH WI 54011 and the Kohn Law Firm, Plaintiff's attorneys, whose ad-

dress is 735 N. Water St., Suite 1300, Milwaukee, WI 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If no Complaint accompanies this Summons you must respond within the said 40 day period with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint by mailing or delivering said written demand to the court and to the Plaintiff's attorneys at their respective addresses listed above.

If you do not provide a proper answer to the Complaint or provide a written demand for said complaint within the 40 day period, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin July 10, 2024.

KOHN LAW FIRM S.C.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED BY:
/S/MERRICK RAMOS
MERRICK RAMOS
State Bar No. 1116409
Attorney for Plaintiff

WNAXLP 7 17 24 31

**VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH
BOARD MEETING
August 5, 2024 6:00pm
130 N. Chestnut St.
Lower Level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance)**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88151870855?pwd=Iw9D-13q5zX54j6XJLPaQDvYgWp-pA1r.1>
Meeting ID: 881 5187 0855
Passcode: 349133

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Public comment on non-agenda items

Consent Agenda:

4. Review/Approval of Village Board Meeting minutes – 7/1
5. Review/Approve payments and deposits
6. Community Development Authority Meeting minutes 7/18 and 7/31
7. Water and Sewer Committee Meeting minutes 7/1
8. Plan Commission Meeting minutes 7/15

New Business:

9. Discuss/Possible Action on Site Plan Review of a multi-family development on Lot 1 of Crossing Meadows Subdivision Phase 2 by Gerrard Corporation.
10. Discuss/possible action on Resolution 2024-12 Authorizing General Obligation Borrowing for 2024 Capital Equipment not to exceed \$171,000 plus fees.
11. Discuss/Possible Action on Ordinance 706 Creating Section 1.13 of the Municipal Code for Village Attorney Informed Consent.
12. Discuss/Possible Action on Xcel Energy siren donation.
13. Discuss/Possible Action on September Village Board Meeting date and time.
14. Discuss/Possible Action on Strategic Plan RFP.

Reports:

15. President's Report
16. Department Head Reports: Department activity/update
a. Chief of Police
b. Director of Public Works
c. Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Office
d. Library Director

Closed Session:

17. The Board will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

245 N. Broadway St.
TID 13 Developers Agreement

Meeting will reconvene into open session to take or announce action, if any and if appropriate, and to consider other agenda items.

Adjournment

Posted at the Village Hall, Village Website, and the Ellsworth Public Library
Published by The Pierce County Journal

WNAXLP 7 31

**Village Of Ellsworth
Public Notice**

Joint Extraterritorial Zoning Committee of the Village of Ellsworth, Town of Ellsworth and the Town of Trimble will hold a public hearing on August 12, 2024, 5:30 p.m. at the Village Hall (lower level meeting room, (East rear entrance) 130 N. Chestnut St. to consider an application from Scott Zimmer, W6206 US Highway 63, Ellsworth, WI 54011, for a request to rezone the property from Light Industrial to Residential (R-1), on property

within the Village of Ellsworth ETZ area.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE ASKED TO ATTEND.

WNAXLP 7 31, 8 7

TOWN OF RIVER FALLS

The following River Falls Town Meetings will meet on Monday, August 5, 2024, beginning at 6:30 P.M. at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th Ave.

6:30 P.M. – Plan Commission Agenda: Plan Commission Agenda: Minutes; Comments & Requests; Zoning Administrator Report; Discussion on Extra Territorial Zoning Districts; Discussion on Town Code Chapter 17.07 and 17.08; Consideration of adoption of Planning Committee Resolution 2024-A to recommend Town Board adoption of the 2024 Town of River Falls Comprehensive Plan; A quorum of Town Board members may be present.

7:00 P.M. Joint Public Hearing
A joint Public Hearing will be conducted by the Town of River Falls Plan Commission and Town Board to consider action on an ordinance to adopt the *Town of River Falls Comprehensive Plan*. The purpose of the public hearing is to accept public comments on the Town of River Falls' recommended version of the plan. During the Public Hearing, the public is invited to speak on the recommended plan. The Public Hearing shall be closed when all interested parties in attendance have had an opportunity to offer comment. Upon the close of the Public Hearing, comments will be forwarded to the Town Board for consideration and possible action on adoption of the plan by ordinance. 8:00 P.M. or Following the Joint Public Hearing – Regular Board Meeting

AGENDA

Call to order
Consider for approval or other action:

1. Approve Agenda
2. Minutes from July 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
3. Financial/Fire Call Report
4. Public Comments and Requests
5. Zoning Administrator Report
6. Plan Commission Report
7. Consideration of Ordinance 2024-1 adoption of the 2024 Town of River Falls Comprehensive Plan
8. Board and Staff Communications
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Audit and Pay Bills
11. Closed Session to Discuss Recycling Center Employment. The Board will immediately move to go into Closed Session under State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation, data of any employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. The Board will immediately return to open session for additional matters related to the closed session.
12. Adjourn

Action may be taken on any agenda item. This agenda is subject to change. Some agenda items may be taken up earlier in the meeting, or in a different order than listed. The posted notice at the Town Hall is the primary notice. Meeting notice posted on the Town's website www.riverfallstown.com, at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770 th Avenue, River Falls, WI and at the River Falls Town Shop, N7750 State Road 65, River Falls, WI. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting who requires special accommodation because of a disability should contact the Clerk's office, at 715-629-8240 or email clerk@riverfallstown.com, at least 72 hours before the meeting begins so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Sarah Meyer, Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

**STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT,
PIERCE COUNTY**

**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR34**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
Melvern J. Janisch**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth January 26, 1931 and date of death March 2, 2024, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W4674 State Road 72, Ellsworth WI 54011.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 25, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, room 201.

Form Completed:
Leo A. Beskar
Address:
Rodli, Beskar, Neuhaus, Murray & Pletcher, S.C.
219 North Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Telephone:
715-425-7281
Bar Number:
1003297

PUBLIC Notice

CITY OF RIVER FALLS

PUBLIC NOTICE: TESTING ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT for the AUGUST 13, 2024 PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION

According to Wis. Stats. 5.84(1) Notice is hereby given that a Public Test of Automatic Tabulation Equipment must be conducted prior to each election. Other electronic equipment may also be tested. Testing will take place on **Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** at the municipalities listed below:

TOWN of TROY
Kelly Neidermyer,
Town Clerk/Treasurer
654 Glover Road
Hudson WI 54016
(715) 425-2665

TOWN of KINNICKINNIC
Nicky Thompson,
Town Clerk
1271 City Rd J
River Falls WI 54022
(715) 425-8082

CITY of RIVER FALLS
Jackie Hanson, Deputy Clerk
City Hall Training Room at
222 Lewis Street
River Falls WI 54022
(715) 426-3448

TOWN of RIVER FALLS
Sarah Meyer, Town Clerk
W9015 770 th Ave
River Falls WI 54022
(715) 629-8240

The test is open to the public. An errorless count must be made before the Clerk can approve the equipment for use in the election.

Posted: 7/23/24
Published: 7/31/24

WNAXLP 7 31

CITY OF RIVER FALLS

NOTICE OF NEWLY ENACTED ORDINANCE

AT ITS JULY 23, 2024, MEETING, THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVER FALLS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE:

Ordinance 202 4-03 – An Ordinance Amending the Membership of the Plan Commission in Section 2.56.010 – Administration and Personnel of the Municipal Code - this ordinance amends the membership of the commission to five citizen members, an alderperson, and the mayor as the presiding officer.

The full text of each ordinance, adoption of which is noticed above, may be viewed on the City's website at www.rfcity.org or obtained from the City Clerk at 715-425-0900.

Published: 7/31/2024

WNAXLP 7 31

CITY OF PRESCOTT, WISCONSIN ORDINANCE 06-24, an Ordinance to Amend and Additions City Ordinance, Chapter 526 – Trees and Shrubs

The City Council of the City of Prescott, Wisconsin, Does Ordain as Follows:

Section 1. All provisions of "Chapter 526 – Trees and Shrubs"
Section 2. The following ordinance is hereby to be amended with the following changes and additions as follows:

§ 526-1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

PARK TREES

Trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names, and all areas owned by the City, or to which the public has free access as a park.

STREET TREES

Trees, shrubs, and all other woody vegetation on land lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the City.

§ 526-2. City Tree Board.

A. Creation. There is hereby created and established a City Tree Board for the City of Prescott which shall consist of five members, citizens and residents of this City, who shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council.

B. Term of office. The term of the five persons to be appointed by the Mayor shall be three years except that the term of two of the members appointed to the first Board shall be only one year and the term of two members of the first Board shall be for two years. In the event that a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, a successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term.

C. Compensation. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.

D. Duties and responsibilities. It shall be the responsibility of the Tree Board to study, investigate and develop and/or update annually and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. Such plan will be presented annually to the Common Council and upon its acceptance and approval shall constitute the Official Comprehensive City Tree Plan for the City of Prescott, Wisconsin. The Board, when requested by the Council, shall consider, investigate, make finding, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. II).

E. Operation. The Tree Board shall choose its own officers, make its own rules and regulations, subject to approval of the Common Council, and keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

§ 526-2. City Tree Management.

A. Responsibilities. The city staff shall be responsible for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal, or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets, and in other public areas. The city staff, when requested by the Parks and Public Works Committee, shall consider, investigate, report, and recommend upon any special matter or question within the scope of their work.

B. Operations. City staff shall establish procedures, subject to approval of the Parks and Public Works Committee and maintain records of their activities.

§ 526-3. Street tree species to be planted.

No species shall be planted other than those listed in the Prescott Master Park Plan.

§ 526-4. Spacing.

No trees may be planted closer together than the following: small trees, 30 feet; medium trees, 40 feet; and large trees, 50 feet, except in special plantings designed or approved by a landscape architect.

§ 526-5. Distance from curb and sidewalk.

No trees may be planted closer to any curb or sidewalk than the following: small trees, two feet; medium trees, three feet; and large trees, four feet.

§ 526-6. Distance from street corners and fire hydrants.

No street tree shall be planted closer than 35 feet to any street corner, measured from the point of nearest intersecting curbs or curblines. No street tree shall be planted closer than 10 feet to any hydrant.

§ 526-7. Utilities.

No trees on public City streets or boulevards, other than those species referred to as small trees in the Prescott Master Park Plan, may be planted under or within 10 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire, or within 10 lateral feet of any underground water line, sewer line, transmission line, or other utility.

§ 526-8. Public tree care.

A. The City shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain, and remove trees, plants, and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares, and public grounds, as may be necessary to ensure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.

B. The City Tree Board City staff may remove or cause or order to be removed any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which, by reason of its nature, is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public

improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. This section does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners, providing that the selection and location of said trees are in accordance with §§ 526-3 through 526-7.

§ 526-9. Tree topping.

It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person, firm, or City department to top any street tree, park tree, or other tree on public property. "Topping" is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this chapter at the determination of the City Tree Board City staff.

§ 526-10. Pruning; corner clearance.

Every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right-of-way within the City shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of eight feet above the surface of the street or sidewalk. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased, or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The City shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a streetlight or interferes with the visibility of any traffic control device or sign.

§ 526-11. Dead or diseased tree removal on private property.

The City shall have the right to cause the removal of any dead or diseased trees on private property within the City, when such trees constitute a hazard to life and property, or harbor insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the City. The City Tree Board City staff will notify, in writing, the owners of such trees. Removal shall be done by said owners at their own expense within 60 days after the date of service of notice. In the event owners fail to comply with such provisions, the City shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the cost of removal on the owner's property tax notice.

§ 526-12. Removal of stumps.

All stumps of street and park trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

§ 526-13. License required.

It shall be unlawful for any person or firm to engage in the business or occupation of pruning, treating, or removing street or park trees within the City without first applying for and procuring a license. The license fee shall be as prescribed in the City's fee schedule; provided, however, that no license shall be required of any public service company or City employee doing such work in the pursuit of their public service endeavors. Before any license shall be issued, each applicant shall first file evidence of possession of liability insurance in the minimum amounts of \$50,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 property damage indemnifying the City of any person injured or damaged resulting from the pursuit of such endeavors as herein described.

§ 526-14. Review by Parks and Public Works Committee.

The Common Council Parks and Public Works Committee shall have the right to review the conduct, acts and decisions of the City Tree Board City staff regarding tree management. Any person may appeal from any ruling or order the City Tree Board of City staff to Common Council the Parks and Public Works Committee who may hear the matter and make final decision.

APPROVED:

Robert Daugherty, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rashel Temmers, City Clerk

Introduced: 7/22/2024

Adopted: 7/22/2024

Published: 7/31/2024

Effective: 8/2/2024

WNAXLP 7 31

Village of Ellsworth Public Notice Testing Electronic Voting Equipment for the August Partisan Primary August 13, 2024

According to Wis. Stats. 5.84(1) Testing Equipment, the electronic voting equipment must be tested at a public meeting. The DS200 and Express Vote machines will be tested Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 12:30pm at the Village Hall Lower Level Meeting Room 130 N. Chestnut Street Ellsworth, WI 54011. The test is open to the public.

Brad Roy
Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

WNAXLP 7 31

CITY OF PRESCOTT, WISCONSIN ORDINANCE 05-24

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 30-9, TREE BOARD.

Upon review, recommendation, and consideration by the City of Prescott Common Council does Ordain:

Section 1. All provisions of Section 30-9 "Tree Board" in effect on or before July 22 nd , 2024, are hereby repealed.

Chapter 30. Boards, Commissions and Committees

§ 30-9. Tree Board.

The City Tree Board shall be created and have such duties as prescribed in § 526-2 of this Code.

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective upon due notice and publication as required by law.

APPROVED:

Robert Daugherty, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rashel Temmers, City Clerk

Introduced: 7/22/2024

Adopted: 7/22/2024

Published: 7/31/2024

Effective: 8/2/2024

WNAXLP 7 31

TOWN OF TRIMBELLE TEST OF VOTING MACHINES

Notice is hereby given that the public test of the Electronic Voting Equipment to be used at the August 13, 2024 Election will be conducted at the Trimbelle Town Hall located at N5310 800 th Street, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

The public test is open to the general public.

Mary J. Kees, Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

Village of Ellsworth Public Notice

Absentee voting to be administered on August 6, 2024 at the following locations:

Ellsworth Health Services, 403 N. Maple Street Ellsworth,

WI 54011 beginning at 9:00 am.

and

**Preferred Senior Living, 429 West Wayne Street Ellsworth,
WI 54011 beginning at 10:00 am.**

Special Voting Deputies appointed by the Village of Ellsworth will be administering absentee voting for the residents of this facility for the August Partisan Primary Election, August 13, 2024, at the above time and place. Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered to receive an absentee ballot.

Only observers from each of the two recognized political parties whose candidates for governor or president received the greatest number of votes in the municipality at the most recent general election may accompany the deputies to each facility where absentee voting will take place. The observers may observe the process of absentee ballot distribution in the common areas of the home, facility, or complex. Each party wishing to have an observer present shall submit the name of the observer to the clerk or board of election commissioners no later than the close of business on the last business day prior to the visit. Family members of residents may be present at the time of voting.

The backup date will be August 7, 2024 at the originally scheduled time. If you have further questions, please contact:

Brad Roy
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer
130 N. Chestnut St., Ellsworth, WI 54011
715-273-4742
brad.roy@villageofellsworth.org

WNAXLP 7 31

Notice of public test of electronic voting equipment in the Town of Diamond Bluff, Pierce County, WI

Notice is hereby given that the public test of the electronic voting equipment to be used for the August 13 Primary Election will be conducted on Thursday, August 8 at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall in the Town of Diamond Bluff.

The public test is open to the general public.

Todd Mehrkens

Town Clerk

For Diamond Bluff Town information:

www.diamond-bluff-wi.org

WNAXLP 7 31

PIERCE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF LAND MANAGEMENT & RECORDS Notice of Public Hearing

State of Wisconsin
) ss.
County of Pierce)

Public notice is hereby given to all persons in Pierce County, Wisconsin, that a public hearing will be held on the 7 th day of August, 2024, at 6 pm, in the County Boardroom in the Courthouse Annex, Ellsworth, WI, before the Land Management Committee to consider and take action on a request for a Conditional Use Permit for Expansion of a Nonconforming Structure pursuant to Pierce County Code § 240-67A(2) in the Agriculture-Residential District for Hofacker Family Trust, owner on property located in part of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 33, T26N, R15W, Town of Rock Elm, Pierce County, WI.

Public attendance is available in person or virtually with the link or phone number provided below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88167192266?pwd=pbjcJoc5E-pSoaSHBUcu3Na0T6fED3C.1>

Meeting ID Number: 881 6719 2266 Password: 862227
United States: + 1 (312) 626-6799 Access Code: 862227

All persons interested are invited to said hearing and to be heard.

Adam Adank
Zoning Administrator
Pierce County, Wisconsin
CUPPH24.04

WNAXLP 7 24 31

NOTICE OF VOTING EQUIPMENT TEST Town of El Paso

Notice is hereby given in the Town of El Paso, Pierce County, Wisconsin, that a test of the electronic voting equipment will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the El Paso Town Hall, N5325 450 th St., Ellsworth, WI. This test is open to the general public.

Sherri L. Heise, Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

TOWN OF ELLSWORTH PUBLIC NOTICE TESTING OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

A public testing of the Express Vote and optical scan voting/tabulating equipment to be used at the August 13 Partisan Office and Referendum Election will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, W5706 State Rd 72, Ellsworth. The test is open to the general public. Phyllis J Beaström, Clerk

WNAXLP 7 31

CITY OF PRESCOTT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ELECTION EQUIPMENT TESTING

Per Wis. Stat. §5.84(1), the City of Prescott will be holding a public election equipment testing on August 7, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in the City Hall Chambers room. The public is invited to attend and observe.

If you have questions, please contact the City Clerk:

Rashel Temmers
800 Borner St.
Prescott, WI 54021
715-262-5544

All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

WNAXLP 7 31

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Prescott High School students (from left) Izzy Metz, Claire Murphy, Ashley Keller and Bryn Anderson in front of the Olympic Stadium of the first Modern Olympic games in 1896. Contributed photo



A group of 60 from Prescott visited the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Contributed photo



Prescott High School's Greek tour guides Kleio Kenanoglou and Sofia Gkortzi. Contributed photo



Prescott High School students take to the streets of Pompeii. Contributed photo



A group from Prescott at the Ruins of Ephesus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Contributed photo



Will Markert and Jack Kreager by the Parthenon on Prescott High School's recent international trip in July. Contributed photo



The Prescott group at the foot of the Acropolis. Contributed photo

PUBLIC Notice

NOTICE OF JOINT REVIEW BOARD MEETING VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH, WISCONSIN

Notice is Hereby Given that the Village of Ellsworth will hold a Joint Review Board meeting on August 5, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

The meeting will be held at the Ellsworth Village Hall, located at 130 N Chestnut St., Lower-level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance), or virtually:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84986231598?pwd=vmder3tUAG-fUyKbGS8CF4dk2lqwK80.1 Meeting ID : 849 8623 1598 Passcode : 041940

The meeting is being held to consider approval of the resolutions adopted by the Ellsworth Village Board amending Tax Incremental District No. 7 and creating Tax Incremental District No. 13. The meeting is open to the public.

The Joint Review Board will also review the annual reports and the performance and status of each Tax Incremental District governed by the Joint Review Board as required by W is. Stat. § 66.1105(4m)(f).

By Order of the Village of Ellsworth, Wisconsin

Published July 31, 2024

Trip

from Page 1

centering around visits to the world's greatest sights and landscapes. Founded in 1965, Education First has a presence in 115 countries and is the oldest international student travel company in the world.

This is the third time Prescott students under the direction of Prescott High School social studies teacher Jeff Ryan have traveled to Europe under the umbrella of Education First. Ryan, along with fellow group leader Tanya Sponholz, first traveled with a group of students to Ireland and the United Kingdom in 2019 and the second Prescott group visited Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Austria in July 2022. This year's group, by far the largest, included visits to some of Europe's most well-known places. The itinerary included tours of the Roman Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Ruins of Pompeii, Vatican City, the Acropolis, Delphi, the ruins

of Ephesus - one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The trip also included a three-day cruise of the Aegean Sea with stops on the Greek Islands of Santorini and Mykonos, and the Turkish Island of Cesme.

"There were so many things we saw," said Lesso. "The ruins of Pompeii, Delphi, and the Acropolis were all great to see. It's just difficult to pick out one thing that stands out because it was all so cool."

It wasn't just visits to the sites that drew rave reviews from students, but also the food.

"The food was excellent, especially in Greece," said Keller. "That is another good thing about the trip: you get an opportunity to try foods you don't have back in the United States. That's another great part of the experience."

"They drive a lot differently in Greece and Italy," said Joaquin Magee. "In both countries people would be driving right in the middle of crowded alleys and there were people on scooters weaving in and out of traf-

fic. You had to be sure and pay attention when you were crossing the street. It was pretty crazy at times"

All participants also raved about the tour guides and local guides during the tour.

"Our tour guides Sofia and Kleio were fantastic," said Ken Ryan. "They answered all of our questions and were extremely enthusiastic and helpful the entire time. We really got to know both of them very well."

Those feelings were echoed by everyone.

"We were very lucky to have seasoned veterans as our guides," said Jeff Ryan. "They worked together so well and had tremendous communication skills. Both connected with the group in a way that made all travelers feel welcomed, safe, and comfortable. Sophia and Kleio were exemplary."

As far as future trips, Ryan will be bringing another group to Japan in the summer of 2026, a tour that is already full to capacity.

"Although it appears to be a long way off, it will be here before we know it."

The Japan Itinerary includes visits to the cities of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima.

When it comes to traveling on future EF trips, participants highly recommend the experience.

"Reading about these places in a textbook or seeing pictures in a magazine is one thing, but standing inside the Colosseum or walking the streets of the ancient city of Pompeii is another. It is still hard to believe I was in these places," said Ken Ryan.

"The trip also gives you an opportunity to connect with others," said Lesso. "Not only with your classmates but with students from other EF groups around the country. On the cruise we got to meet students from other parts of the United States and that was really fun to make more connections."

Keller summed things up this way.

"If you have the opportunity to travel on an EF trip, you should do it. You will have great experiences and create memories that will last a lifetime."

The heat doesn't beat UFO Days spirit



Elmwood's Main Street was packed with spectators for the 45th annual UFO Days Grand Parade Sunday, July 28. High heat and humidity didn't dampen the community spirit, complete with alien masks and costumes. Photos by Sarah Nigbor



Elmwood had many great photo opportunity spots for the 45th annual UFO Days, including this spot at Main Street and Winter Avenue. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



The 2024 UFO Days grand marshals Dave and Amy Bechel are known for their commitment to community service and volunteerism. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Al Forred and Micky Martin, of Red Wing, Minn., visited UFO Days for the first time Sunday, July 28. They made sure to try a UFO burger. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 207 greeted parade goes on Sunday, July 28 during UFO Days. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



River Falls Grand Royal Ambassador Ashley Symicek and Royal Ambassador Logan Huppert represented the "City on the Kinni" Sunday at the 45th annual UFO Days. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Elmwood High School Class of 2024 graduate Alixis Nehring takes a break from her clarinet during Sunday's UFO Days parade. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Staying Put, an organization dedicated to helping seniors stay in their homes and remain active in the community, crowned royalty for Spring Valley (Ron Thompson and Shelby Crow, front) and Elmwood (Elizabeth DeLong and Virginia Place, back). Photo by Sarah Nigbor

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